

Watery Lane Preschool

e-Safety Policy



Policy statement

At Watery Lane Preschool we take steps to ensure that there are effective procedures in place to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from the unacceptable use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment or exposure to inappropriate materials in the setting.

Procedures

- Our designated person (manager/deputy) responsible for co-ordinating action taken to protect children is: Becki Ely

Children's use of screens and digital technology

Watery Lane Preschool recognises that digital technology can support children's learning and development when used appropriately. In accordance with the EYFS statutory framework, we have regard to appropriate screen use for young children.

Screen-based activities will be purposeful, age appropriate and used to enhance children's learning rather than replace high-quality play, physical activity, communication, social interaction and first-hand experiences.

Children will not routinely use screens for prolonged periods or for passive entertainment. Where screens or digital devices are used, practitioners will consider the purpose of the activity, the child's age and individual needs, the length of time involved and the balance of screen-based and non-screen-based experiences throughout the session.

Practitioners will model healthy and appropriate use of digital technology and support children to begin developing an age-appropriate understanding of how to use technology safely.

Where appropriate, we will work with parents and carers to promote healthy and safe use of screens and digital technology at home

Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment

- Only ICT equipment belonging to the setting is used by staff and children.
- The designated person is responsible for ensuring all ICT equipment is safe and fit for purpose.
- All computers have virus protection installed.

- Setting devices containing children's information or images must be password/PIN protected, securely stored, not left unattended where children or unauthorised people can access them, and only accessed by authorised staff.
- The designated person ensures that safety settings are set to ensure that inappropriate material cannot be accessed.

Internet access

- Children do not normally have access to the internet and never have unsupervised access. Supervised access will be for the purposes of the child's learning and development.
- The designated person has overall responsibility for ensuring that children and young people are safeguarded and risk assessments in relation to online safety are completed.
- Children are taught the following stay safe principles in an age appropriate way prior to using the internet;
 - only go on line with a grown up
 - be kind on line
 - keep information about me safely
 - only press buttons on the internet to things I understand
 - tell a grown up if something makes me unhappy on the internet
- Designated persons will also seek to build children's resilience in relation to issues they may face in the online world, and will address issues such as staying safe, having appropriate friendships, asking for help if unsure, not keeping secrets as part of social and emotional development in age appropriate ways.
- Any on line safety concerns will be reported to the DSL.
- If a second hand computer is purchased or donated to the setting, the designated person will ensure that no inappropriate material is stored on it before children use it.
- All computers for use by children are located in an area clearly visible to staff.
- Children are not allowed to access social networking sites.
- Staff report any suspicious or offensive material, including material which may incite racism, bullying or discrimination to the Internet Watch Foundation at www.iwf.org.uk.
- Suspicions that an adult is attempting to make inappropriate contact with a child on-line is reported to the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre at www.ceop.police.uk.
- The designated person ensures staff have access to age-appropriate resources to enable them to assist children to use the internet safely.

- If staff become aware that a child is the victim of cyber-bullying, they discuss this with their parents and refer them to sources of help, such as the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or www.nspcc.org.uk, or Childline on 0800 1111 or www.childline.org.uk.
- We are aware of the damaging impact that accessing or observing parent's accessing inappropriate content can have. If we become aware that this is happening at home we will have a discussion with the parent to ensure that the parent is aware of the impact this may be having on their child and potentially other children attending the setting.

Email

- Children are not permitted to use email in the setting. Parents and staff are not normally permitted to use setting equipment to access personal emails.
- Staff do not access personal or work email whilst supervising children.
- Staff send personal information by encrypted email and share information securely at all times.

Mobile phones – children

- Children do not bring mobile phones or other ICT devices with them to the setting. If a child is found to have a mobile phone or ICT device with them, this is removed and stored in a locked drawer in the office until the parent collects them at the end of the session.

Mobile phones – staff and visitors

- Personal mobile phones are not used by our staff on the premises during on-duty working hours. They will be put on silent and stored in staff bags in the office or lockers.
- In an emergency, personal mobile phones may be used in an area where there are no children present, with permission from the manager.
- Our staff and volunteers ensure that the setting telephone number is known to family and other people who may need to contact them in an emergency.
- Parents and visitors are requested not to use their mobile phones whilst on the premises and when staying will be required to place them in the office. We make an exception if a visitor's company or organisation operates a lone working policy that requires contact with their office periodically throughout the day. Visitors will be advised of a quiet space where they can use their mobile phone, where no children are present.

- These rules also apply to the use of work-issued mobiles, and when visiting or supporting staff in other settings.

Cameras and videos

- Our staff and volunteers must not bring their personal cameras or video recording equipment (including wearable devices) into the setting.
- Photographs and recordings of children are only taken for valid reasons i.e. to record their learning and development, or for displays within the setting, with written permission received by parents (see the Admission Form and Image Consent Form). Such use is monitored by the managers.
- Where parents request permission to photograph or record their own children at special events, general permission is gained from all parents for their children to be included. Parents are advised that they do not have a right to photograph anyone else's child or to upload photos of anyone else's children.
- If photographs of children are used for publicity purposes, parental consent must be given and safeguarding risks minimised, for example, ensuring children cannot be identified by name or through being photographed in a sweatshirt with the name of their setting on it.

Social media

- Staff are advised to manage their personal security settings to ensure that their information is only available to people they choose to share information with.
- Staff may accept service users and parents as friends under the proviso that no mention of preschool or anything that relates to their professional capacity is mentioned.
- In the event that staff name the organisation or workplace in any social media they do so in a way that is not detrimental to the organisation or its service users.
- Staff observe confidentiality and refrain from discussing any issues relating to work
- Staff should not share information they would not want children, parents or colleagues to view.
- Staff should report any concerns or breaches to the designated person in their setting.
- Staff avoid personal communication regarding preschool matters, including on social networking sites, with the children and parents with whom they act in a professional capacity. If a practitioner and family are friendly prior to the child coming into the setting, this information is shared with the manager prior to a child attending and a risk assessment and agreement in relation to boundaries is agreed.

Electronic learning journals for recording children's progress

- See our Learning Journal Policy.
- Staff adhere to the guidance provided with the system at all times.
- We follow GDPR (2018), see our Privacy Notice

Use and/or distribution of inappropriate images

- Staff are aware that it is an offence to distribute indecent images. In the event of a concern that a colleague or other person is behaving inappropriately, the Safeguarding Children and Child Protection policy, in relation to allegations against staff and/or responding to suspicions of abuse, is followed
- Staff are aware that grooming children and young people on line is an offence in its own right and concerns about a colleague's or others' behaviour are reported (as above).

Please see our Policies for Safeguarding and Child Protection; Whistleblowing; Learning Journal; Mobile Phones, cameras and Computers; Staff Behaviour Policy and the document Safeguarding Children and Protecting Professionals in Early Years Settings (UK Council for Internet Safety).

Statutory Framework

EYFS Statutory Framework for Group and School-Based Providers (effective 1 September 2026)

KCSIE 2026

▪ A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.3 Keeping Safe	2.1 Respecting Each Other 2.2 Parents as Partners 2.3 Supporting Learning	3.1 Observation, assessment and planning 3.2 Supporting Every Child 3.3 The Learning Environment 3.4 The Wider Context	4.4 Areas of Learning and Development

This policy was adopted at a meeting of **Watery Lane Preschool**

Held on _____

Signed on behalf of management committee _____

Name of signatory _____ Role of signatory _____

Date to be reviewed _____