



Screen Time and Digital Technology Policy

Statement of Intent

At Little Explorers Day Nursery & Preschool we recognise that technology forms part of children's everyday lives. When used appropriately, digital technology can enhance learning, communication and creativity. However we also recognise the importance of protecting children's physical health, emotional wellbeing, language development and social interactions.

In accordance with the **Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (September 2026)**, the nursery has regard to the Department for Education's guidance on children's screen use in early years settings.

Children's learning is primarily based on play, exploration, first hand experiences and high quality interactions with adults. Screens are never used as a substitute for responsive caregiving, active play or meaningful learning experiences.

Aims

We aim to:

- Promote healthy, balanced and age appropriate use of technology.
- Ensure screen use always has a clear educational or developmental purpose.
- Support children's communication, language and social development through face to face interactions.
- Minimise unnecessary exposure to screens.
- Support children to develop early digital literacy safely.
- Work in partnership with families to promote healthy digital habits.

Our Principles

At Little Explorers we believe that children learn best through:

- Play
- Exploration
- Curiosity
- Physical activity
- Outdoor experiences

- Creative opportunities
- Relationships with caring adults

Technology will never replace these experiences.

How We Use Screens

Screens may occasionally be used to support children's learning where they add genuine educational value.

Examples include:

- Looking up information linked to children's interests.
- Viewing photographs of previous learning.
- Researching animals, cultures or places.
- Listening to music from around the world.
- Supporting communication using visual resources.
- Interactive stories used alongside adult discussion.
- Small group phonics or language activities.
- Recording children's voices.
- Viewing photographs children have taken.

Screen use is always:

- Adult led.
- Planned.
- Purposeful.
- Time limited.
- Closely supervised.

We Do Not Use Screens

We do not use screens:

- As entertainment.
- To occupy children whilst staff complete tasks.
- During meal times.

- To settle behaviour.
- As a reward.
- During sleep or rest periods.
- As a substitute for outdoor play.
- For prolonged periods.

Appropriate Screen Time

The nursery does not operate fixed daily screen time.

Instead, any use is based upon children's individual needs and learning opportunities.

Where screens are used they are:

- Short in duration.
- Relevant to the activity.
- Followed by discussion or practical experiences.
- Balanced with active play.

Children spend the vast majority of their nursery day engaged in practical, hands on learning.

Digital Safety

Children are always supervised when using technology.

Staff ensure:

- Appropriate websites only are accessed.
- Safe search functions are enabled.
- Internet filtering is in place.
- Devices are password protected.
- Downloads are authorised.
- Children are never given unrestricted internet access.

The nursery follows our Online Safety Policy alongside this policy.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The nursery recognises the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence.

AI may occasionally support staff planning or administrative tasks but will never replace professional judgement.

Children's images will never be uploaded to publicly accessible AI platforms.

Photographs are only shared through secure nursery systems in accordance with our Privacy Notice.

The nursery does not publish children's photographs on social media or our website.

Staff Use of Technology

Staff must:

- Follow the Acceptable Use Policy.
- Use nursery devices wherever possible.
- Never use personal mobile phones around children except in designated areas.
- Never access inappropriate material.
- Never photograph children using personal devices.
- Report any concerns immediately.

Supporting Children with SEND

Where technology supports an individual child's identified need, it may be used as part of their personalised learning or communication plan.

Examples may include:

- Communication apps.
- Visual timetables.
- Speech and language resources.
- Cause and effect programmes.

This will always be agreed with parents where appropriate.

Working with Parents

We encourage families to develop healthy screen habits at home by:

- Promoting play based learning.

- Encouraging shared reading.
- Supporting outdoor play.
- Encouraging conversation during family routines.
- Sharing current guidance regarding children's digital lives.

Families may be signposted to:

- Department for Education guidance.
- Children's Commissioner for England digital guidance for parents.
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children online safety advice.

Monitoring

Managers will monitor the implementation of this policy through:

- Staff supervision.
- Learning observations.
- Planning reviews.
- Safeguarding audits.
- Policy reviews.

Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Mobile Phone and Camera Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Privacy and Data Protection Policy

Legislative Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (September 2026)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Department for Education guidance on children's screen use in early years settings

At Little Explorers Day Nursery & Preschool, children spend the vast majority of their day engaged in active, play based learning through exploration, investigation, outdoor experiences, communication and meaningful interactions with adults and other children.

Where digital technology is used, it is always purposeful, carefully planned, developmentally appropriate and never replaces the rich experiences that are fundamental to children's learning and development.

Implemented:	Reviewed:
May 2022	4th August 2026