

“Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you.”

Gosforth C of E Primary School and Nursery



EYFS Screen Time Policy

Approved by	
Name:	Mark Fussell
Position:	Chair of Governors
Signed:	<i>M. Fussell</i>
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Review Date:	September 2028

Introduction

At Gosforth C of E School and Nursery we recognise that excessive screen use can impact young children's development, learning, communication, physical activity, sleep and wellbeing. We are committed to providing a rich, play-based learning environment where children learn through direct experiences, exploration, social interaction and responsive adult engagement.

Any use of screens within our setting will be limited, carefully planned, supervised by adults and linked to specific learning intentions. Screens will enhance learning where appropriate but will never replace high-quality interactions between adults and children.

Aims

We aim to:

- Promote healthy child development and wellbeing.
- Minimise unnecessary screen exposure.
- Ensure any screen use is purposeful and educational.
- Support children's communication, language and social development.
- Work in partnership with parents and carers to promote healthy screen habits.
- Safeguard children when using digital technology.

Screen Time Guidance

In line with current government guidance:

- Children under 2 years will not be exposed to screen time within the setting, except in exceptional circumstances such as video calls with family members.
- For children aged 2 to 5 years, screen use will be kept to a minimum and used only for specific learning purposes. Screen time will not exceed 1 hour per day, and will typically be much less.
- Screen use will be considered alongside children's screen exposure at home.
- Screen-based assistive technology used to support children with SEND is exempt from these limitations where it supports communication, inclusion or learning.
- Screen time will not replace active play, social interaction, or outdoor experiences, which remain our priority.

Purposeful & Educational Use of Screens

Screens may be used for:

- Educational, creative or interactive purposes, such as age-appropriate apps, music or storytelling.
- Sharing a short educational video linked to a topic the children are exploring.

- Engaging in interactive rhymes, games or phonics activities in small groups.
- Looking at photographs of animals, vehicles, occupations, or places to support discussions.
- Assistive technology that helps children with SEND to access learning and communicate.

All screen-based activities will:

- Have a clear educational purpose.
- Be planned and supervised by an adult.
- Encourage discussion, interaction and participation.
- Be used for short periods only.
- Complement rather than replace play and practical learning experiences.

Unacceptable Use of Screens

Screens will not be used:

- As a reward or punishment.
- To manage behaviour.
- To occupy children during routine transitions.
- To calm distressed children routinely.
- During mealtimes.
- Within one hour of children's sleep or rest periods.
- As a substitute for stories, songs, conversations or adult interaction.
- With autoplay or unrestricted internet access.

Content Requirements

All digital content used in the setting must be:

- Age appropriate.
- Checked by staff before use.
- Free from inappropriate advertising.
- Slow-paced and suitable for young children's developmental stage.
- Free from inappropriate language, violence or frightening content.
- Safe and compliant with safeguarding requirements.

Children will not access screens independently without adult supervision.

Safeguarding

The setting will:

- Ensure devices are secure and appropriately filtered where internet access is available.
- Supervise children at all times when screens are in use.

- Protect children from unsuitable online content.
- Follow the school's safeguarding and online safety procedures.
- Ensure photographs and videos of children are stored and shared securely in line with data protection requirements.

Staff Use of Devices

Staff may use digital devices for:

- Observations and assessments.
- Communication with parents and carers.
- Administrative tasks.

Staff must ensure that device use does not reduce the quality of supervision or interaction with children.

Personal mobile phones must be used in accordance with the school's safeguarding and mobile phone policies.

Partnership with Parents and Carers

We will:

- Share our approach to screen use with families.
- Encourage healthy screen habits at home.
- Provide information and guidance when appropriate.
- Promote alternatives to screen use, including reading, outdoor play, creative activities and family interaction.

Monitoring & Review

The Deputy Manager/EYFS Assistant Headteacher will monitor the implementation of this policy and review it annually, or sooner if legislation or guidance changes.