



Wise Owls Nursery School Online Safety Policy

Policy statement

Wise Owls Nursery School is committed to keeping children safe and healthy. This Online Safety Policy sits alongside the Safeguarding Policy and explains how the nursery promotes the safe and appropriate use of the internet, social media, electronic communications and digital devices.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure children's safety and wellbeing when adults or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices.
- Provide staff, students and volunteers with clear principles for safe online practice.
- Ensure the nursery operates lawfully and in line with safeguarding expectations when using technology.

This policy applies to all staff, students, volunteers, children and anyone involved in Wise Owls Nursery School's activities.

Legal framework

This policy has been developed in line with current safeguarding legislation, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework effective from 1 September 2026, and relevant government guidance relating to online safety, including the Department for Education guidance on children's screen use in early years settings.

Our principles

We believe:

- Children should never experience abuse of any kind.
- Children should be able to benefit from technology safely for learning and development.
- Safeguarding responsibilities extend to the online environment.

We recognise:

- The online world provides many opportunities but also presents risks.
- We have a duty to protect children and adults from online harm.
- Partnership with parents and other agencies is essential.
- All children have an equal right to protection from harm.

How we keep children safe online

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has overall responsibility for online safety, supported by the Deputy DSLs.

- All staff follow this policy and report any online safety concerns immediately.
- Internet-enabled devices are supervised, password protected and appropriately secured.
- Information about children, families and staff is stored securely.
- Children's images are only used with parental consent recorded through Family.
- Staff must not use personal phones, cameras or social media accounts to photograph children or communicate with current families.
- Children's full names are never published alongside photographs on public platforms.
- The nursery considers the risks of AI-generated image misuse before publishing photographs.
- New technology, apps and online platforms are risk assessed before use.
- Staff receive regular safeguarding and online safety training.
- Parents are supported with guidance to help keep children safe online.



Nursery devices and professional use

Nursery-owned digital devices may be used by staff for legitimate nursery purposes, including Family, observations, assessment and communication with parents. Their use must be proportionate and must not distract practitioners from supervising, interacting with or teaching children.

- Nursery devices are password protected and use nursery-approved accounts and systems.
- Nursery devices operate through the shared nursery Apple ID.
- Devices are wiped and photographs/videos deleted every Friday so that information is not retained longer than necessary.
- Staff use nursery devices proportionately and in short periods, remaining focused on supervising, interacting with and teaching children.
- Photographs and videos of children are kept to a minimum and are only stored or shared using nursery-approved, secure systems such as Family.
- Personal devices must not be used for nursery purposes, including taking photographs or videos of children.
- Smartwatches and other personal devices with camera, recording or sharing capabilities must not be used while working directly with children.

Children's screen use - September 2026

From 1 September 2026, the EYFS requires early years providers to have regard to Department for Education guidance on children's screen use. Wise Owls takes a precautionary approach. Screens are used sparingly, purposefully and only where they have a clear benefit to children's learning, development or wellbeing.

- Screen use will generally be avoided for children under two, except in exceptional circumstances where there is a clear purpose, for example supporting communication with a parent or carer.
- For children aged two to five, screen use at nursery will be limited and kept well within the DfE recommendation of no more than one hour per day across a child's day, and less wherever possible.
- We recognise that children may also use screens at home and therefore do not seek to use screens simply because screen time remains within this limit.
- Before using a screen with children, practitioners consider whether it is necessary and whether the same learning could be achieved more effectively through real-world play, conversation, books, movement, outdoor experiences or hands-on resources.
- Where screens are used, content must be age and developmentally appropriate, purposeful and preferably interactive rather than passive. Adults remain engaged with children, talk about what they are seeing or doing and use the experience to extend learning.
- Screen use must not replace responsive adult interaction, physical activity, imaginative play, outdoor learning, sleep or rest.
- Children are discouraged from bringing personal screen devices into nursery. Any individual need or exceptional circumstance will be discussed with parents/carers and managed appropriately.

Responding to online safety concerns

Any concern relating to online safety, including inappropriate content, cyberbullying, misuse of images, inappropriate online conduct or accidental access to unsuitable material, must be reported immediately to the DSL. Concerns will be recorded and managed in line with the Safeguarding Policy and, where appropriate, the Allegations Against Staff, Whistleblowing and Complaints procedures.

Handling complaints

Complaints relating to the use of the internet or digital technologies will be managed in accordance with the nursery's Complaints Policy.



Useful resources

- Safeguarding Network - Online Safety Advice for Early Years Settings
- GOV.UK - Safeguarding Children and Protecting Professionals in Early Years Settings: Online Safety Guidance
- Department for Education - Screen use in early years settings
- Internet Matters - Pre-school (0-5) Online Safety Guide
- Childnet - Smartie the Penguin
- Childnet - Digiduck Stories

Linked policies

- Safeguarding Policy
- Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy
- Staff Handbook
- Parents in Partnership Policy
- Code of Conduct

Written	February 2025
Written by	Laura Bryson Reviewed by SH - Early Years Development Officer at Brighton and Hove, March 2025
Reviewed and updated	Reviewed by SH - Early Years Development Officer at Brighton and Hove March 2025 LB – July 2026 AO - September 2026 - EYFS reforms effective 1 September 2026 and DfE guidance on children's screen use
Date to be reviewed	September 2027, or sooner if legislation or statutory guidance changes