

Social Media and ICT usage Policy

This policy was adopted at a meeting of:

Portobello Toddlers Hut Playgroup

1. Statement of Purpose

Technology is an integral part of society both within and outwith the early learning and childcare (ELC) setting. The use of ICT equipment enables children to understand the role and impact technology has in the wider world and helps develop skills and confidence that can be used in different contexts. The use of ICT is fundamental in all aspects of children's learning. As well as this, safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility, so it is important to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children at all times and this includes their online safety.

Throughout the guidance the term '*parents*' is used to include all main caregivers.

2. Equality of Opportunity

As an ELC setting we aim to be inclusive at all times. All children will have the opportunity to access relevant ICT resources to help develop their own individual skills. Resources should be appropriate to the child's age and stage of development and reflect wider society. Opportunities for staff to develop their skills should be available in order to enhance the learning experience for the children and the setting. We will provide support in relation to the appropriate use of social media, using plain English and parent-friendly language.

3. Children

3.1

Children should participate in a wide range of activities that use ICT whilst attending the setting. The use of ICT includes the use of *any* equipment which allows users (both children and adults) to communicate and manipulate information electronically. Children may use a wide range of equipment including, but not limited to, computers, tablets, laptops, digital cameras and listening centres depending on current availability. By experiencing and using different types of ICT, in different contexts, children will be developing a variety of skills across the curriculum at a pace that provides individual challenge and enjoyment.

3.2

All early years settings have a duty to ensure that children are protected from potential harm, both within and beyond the learning environment and therefore e-safety is a priority for managers. Staff are responsible for ensuring children access only appropriate material and for ensuring that use of materials appropriated from internet sites complies with Copyright Law and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Appropriate filters will be applied to ICT equipment and monitored by staff. Children will not have access to social networking sites or chatrooms.

4. Staff

4.1

Staff should possess the relevant skills and knowledge to support children and the setting in the use of ICT. A range of teaching strategies will be used to help develop these skills. Staff will ensure all equipment is in good working order and any faults should be reported to the head of setting. Resources and software will be reviewed regularly to ensure their effectiveness for the children using them. Children will be shown how to use the equipment

and resources safely and staff will monitor time spent by children using ICT.

4.2

Staff may use ICT to gather evidence of children's development and progress to share with parents and strategies should be in place to ensure confidentiality. Internet access will be planned to extend the learning experience and staff will ensure that the internet is accessed responsibly and safely. All registered workers must work to the SSSC Code of Practice for Social Service Workers (the Code) and follow the same standards with their online presence as they would in any aspect of their life. (SSSC, Social media guidance for social service workers)

5. Usage and Storage of Photographs and Personal Data

5.1

Specific permission will be sought individually from parents for any photographs or recordings of their child within the setting. This will be sought when the child starts the setting. As a setting we are aware of the [Data Protection Act 2018](#), and the use and storage of materials with people's images and names included on them. Photographs will only be taken on devices provided by the setting and staff are not permitted to use their own personal devices.

5.2

We will follow best practice by ensuring that:

- Written permission will always specify what the photographs may be used for
- Written permission for the use of photographs will be deemed as being valid for a specific period of time.
- Photographs will only be stored on the setting's computers and other electronic devices. Where photographs are stored electronically, all electronic devices will be password secure.
- Paper copies will be used solely for display purposes or as evidence of the child's progress
- All material with photographic evidence will be stored in a secure place and disposed of appropriately when no longer required.

6. Use of Mobile Phones

Many ELC settings have a mobile phone solely for the use of the setting to ensure effective communication between the setting and users. Only these phones are acceptable in the playroom. All staff, including rota parents and all others in the playroom, should ensure all personal phones are switched off and understand that it is unacceptable to take personal calls whilst working with children. Information regarding the use of mobile phones within the setting should be made available to staff during the induction process. Parents or volunteers should access this information through the setting's handbook and/or the noticeboard.

7. Use of Social Networks

7.1

We recognise that social networking can help settings to engage with parents and staff and can be beneficial in promoting the setting. Many settings use social media to communicate with parents, enabling them to keep up to date with the setting's activities.

Staff should be clear about why social media is being used and what the setting is hoping to achieve by using it. Staff members who will have access to the setting's social media accounts should all understand the proper and correct use of these social media accounts. Policies and procedures should be in place for the use of social media.

7.2

Staff may use their own social media for personal use only. They must, however, recognise that it is not appropriate to discuss *any* matters relating to children, staff or the workplace through these networks. A high security level on social networking sites (i.e. pages set to private, with no information on the profile about where the individual is employed) is required for all staff. This should be reviewed regularly.

Monitoring of this Policy

It will be the responsibility of Catherine Abbot (manager) to ensure that all staff, including new or temporary staff, are familiar with this policy and to monitor that it is being implemented. This will be reviewed through both formal and informal observation of staff practice. Staff will be reminded of the importance of data protection and the use of social media through their CPD review.

See also

Child Protection Policy
Confidentiality Policy
Curriculum Policy
Health and Safety Policy
Safe Recruitment Policy
Parental Participation Policy
GDPR Privacy Policy

Links to national policy

When reviewing your policy, please reflect on the 'Health & Social Care Standards My support, My life' - <https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00520693.pdf>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/un-convention-rights-child-guide-children-young-people-2/pages/1/>

Legislation

Settings are advised to risk assess social media tools to comply with The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, The Children Act 1989, The Childcare Act 2006, The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and The Computer Misuse Act 1990 which clarify that all settings have a duty of care to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and early years staff.

Find out more:

www.shakesocial.co.uk

Email: info@shakesocial.co.uk

SSSC (Social media guidance for social service workers)

<https://www.sssc.uk.com/knowledgebase/article/KA-02289/en-us>