

Mobile Phone Usage and e-Policy

Mobile Phone Usage

At Incey Winceys Day Nursery and Preschool (from this point known as the Nursery) we operate a strict no mobile phone policy in the presence of children whilst they are being looked after on the nursery premises.

All staff, volunteer or students are allocated a personal locker with a key and must ensure their mobile telephones are locked away and may not be used in the rooms that children are being cared in. This includes the nappy changing areas and toilets.

In the case of personal emergencies, with management consent, mobile phones may be used within the confines of the staff room.

Staff, volunteers, and students have emergency use of the landline telephones in their room, and can give out the following details to receive important messages:

0208 518 8001 (Nursery Number)

Option 1 for the Office

Option 2 for the Baby room

Option 3 for the Ants room

Option 4 for the Preschool

The landline phone must not be used to make or receive non-emergency personal calls. The landlines are used in the event of an emergency within the nursery. Alternatively, calls of a sensitive nature may be made or received from the nursery office if appropriate.

At no point during the working day may any mobile phone be present or on anyone's person at all. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in disciplinary action.

Staff are aware to be vigilant of others and are expected to report any personal mobile phone use by staff or parents in areas where there are children being cared for.

Parents and carers or other people collecting the children should keep mobile phones out of sight, and they should not be used during pick up or collection

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times. We reserve the right to ask any parent or carer who is on their mobile phone to leave the building until they have finished their call and put their phone away.

This is due to safeguarding the children against unauthorised photos and videos, but also to aid in effective communication between the member of staff and the parent or carer, regarding feedback of the day, important reminders etc.

Management mobiles may be used within the confines of the staff room, office, and kitchen and never in the rooms in which children are being cared for or in the presence of children.

Children who are old enough to own or carry their own mobile phone should not use it whilst in our care at all.

Smart watches

Smart watches may be worn within the childcare rooms with the children with the understanding that staff members do not become distracted by them. Each owner of a smart watch is responsible for ensuring it does not breach GDPR e.g., they are not using them to record audio or answer a telephone call during the day. We reserve the right to confiscate a smart watch that is worn within the room and is causing a distraction, or negatively impacting the quality of care provided to the children.

Staff are encouraged to share the room phone number with their families, doctors, schools etc which negates the need for smart watches, however we understand it is important to be directly contactable for some emergencies.

iPads, Laptops and Computers

The Nursery uses iPads within the rooms where the children are cared for to observe, photograph and record observations. Staff are aware of the importance to limit this time to allow for the safe supervision of the children and to be positive role models in limiting screen time, and to allow meaningful conversation. iPads are limited to restrict websites that do not need to be accessed during the working day, for example online shopping websites, and the iPads are password protected to restrict the children opening one up and accessing the internet.

The Nursery management regularly monitor the online activity and the quality of observations via the Famly App and can remotely restrict access if necessary.

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The Nursery management also monitor the photos and videos taken via the iCloud application. The iCloud password is confidential, and the staff are vigilant in reporting any inappropriate use of the iPads to management.

Staff also understand that iPads must not be used in areas where children are using the toilet or having their nappies or clothes changed.

iPads are not used as a screen for children to watch, for example a film or TV show, but may be used in short clips to show children for example types of minibeasts. Wherever possible the Nursery also incorporate this information in books and real opportunities to explore, e.g. bug hunts, but the Nursery understands the benefits of such technology to enhancing the learning of the children. We only use screens where there is a clear learning and development purpose.

The EYFS updated guidance on screen use for children 0–5-year-olds: avoid screen time for under 2-year-olds and limited screen time to no more than one hour per day for 2–5-year-olds.

Visitors

When we have visitors to the Nursery, for example OFSTED or the Redbridge Early Years Team they may bring an iPad or Laptop to take notes. The Nursery agrees to this, and staff will not leave the visitor alone or unsupervised with children. Staff understand the risk in the devices being able to photograph or access internet content and if the Nursery deems suitable, we reserve the right to ask the visitor to cover their camera(s) with tape and possibly set the device to airplane mode.

Staff remind parents and visitors to always keep mobile phones out of sight and there are posters around to reinforce this.

Events and Celebrations

Parents and Visitors during celebrations and events such as Christmas parties, Graduation and Summer Fetes are permitted to photograph their own child(ren) and use that image as they would like e.g., to share online if they choose to. If they take a photo which includes children other than their own child(ren) they must not upload or share that image at all, and they understand this image is for personal use only. Parents' consent to this in the contractual agreement. Any

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parent wishing to opt out of this agreement must let the Nursery know and we will endeavour to keep that child out of group photos wherever possible.

The Nursery has permission to involve all children in photographs taken by the local press and around the Nursery for display purposes. The 2026/2027 Welcome Packs seek additional consent for using photographs on the website or social media and staff adhere closely to this consent. Any parent/carer not consenting will mean the child's image is distorted/cropped out/unidentifiable if they are present in any image online.