Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Use

*This policy refers to all electronic devices able to take pictures, record videos, send or receive calls and messages. This includes cameras, mobile telephones, tablets and any recording devices including smartwatches.*

**Mobile phones and other devices that accept calls, messages and video calling**

At **Puddle Ducks**  we promote the safety and welfare of all children in our care. We believe our staff should be completely attentive during their hours of working to ensure all children in the nursery receive good quality care and education.

To ensure the safety and well-being of children we do not allow staff to use personal mobile phones, smartwatches during working hours.

We use mobile phones supplied or authorised by the nursery only to provide a means of contact in certain circumstances, such as outings.

Staff must adhere to the following:

* Mobile phones/smartwatches are left in the office and not accessed during your working hours
* Mobile phones/smart watches can only be used on a designated break and then this must be away from the children in the staff room.
* The use of nursery devices, such as tablets, must only be used for nursery purposes
* The nursery devices will not have any social media or messaging apps on them
* Any apps downloaded onto nursery devices must be done only by management. This will ensure only age and content appropriate apps are accessible to staff or children using them
* Passwords/passcodes for nursery devices must not be shared or written down and will be changed regularly
* During outings, staff only use mobile phones belonging to or authorised the nursery.
* Only nursery owned devices will be used to take photographs or film videos
* Nursery devices will not be taken home with staff and will remain secure at the setting when not in use.

**Parent use of mobile phones and smartwatches**

Parents are kindly asked to refrain from using their mobile telephones whilst in the nursery or when collecting or dropping off their children. We will ask any parents/carers using their phone inside the nursery premises to finish the call or take the call outside. We do this to ensure all children are safeguarded and the time for dropping off and picking up is a quality handover opportunity where we can share details about your child.

Parents are requested not to allow their child to wear or bring in devices that may take photographs or record videos or voices. This includes smart watches with these capabilities, such as Vtech. This ensures all children are safeguarded and also protects their property as it may get damaged or misplaced at the nursery.

**Visitor use of mobile phones and smartwatches**

Visitors are not permitted to use their mobile phones or smart watches whilst at nursery and are asked to leave them in a safe secure place/nursery office for the duration of their visit.

**Photographs and videos**

At **Puddle Ducks** we recognise that photographs and video recordings play a part in the life of the nursery. We ensure that any photographs or recordings (including CCTV) taken of children in our nursery are only done with prior written permission from each child’s parent and only share photos with parents in a secure manner. We will obtain this permission when each child is registered and update it on a regular basis to ensure that this permission is still valid.

We ask for individual permissions for photographs and video recordings for a range of purposes including: use in the child’s learning journey; for display purposes; for promotion materials including our nursery website, Facebook, brochure and the local press; and for security in relation to CCTV and the different social media platforms we use. We ensure that parents understand that where their child is also on another child’s photograph, but not as the primary person, that may be used in another child’s learning journey. Photographs and videos will not be taken in areas where intimate care routines are carried out.

If a parent is not happy about one or more of these uses, we will respect their wishes and find alternative ways of recording their child’s play or learning.

Staff are not permitted to take any photographs or recordings of a child on their own information storage devices e.g. cameras, mobiles, tablets or smartwatches and may only use those provided by the nursery. The nursery manager will monitor all photographs and recordings to ensure that the parents’ wishes are met and children are safeguarded.

Parents and children are not permitted to use any recording device or camera (including those on mobile phones or smartwatches) on the nursery premises without the prior consent of the manager.

During special events, e.g. Christmas or leaving parties, staff may produce group photographs to distribute to parents on request only children permitted to have photographs shared with prior permission will be included in these photos. This will ensure all photographs taken are in line with parental choice. We ask that photos of events such as Christmas parties are not posted on any social media websites/areas without permission from parents of all the children included in the picture.

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| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** | **Date for review** |
| *January 2024* | *J Rennie* | *January 2025* |