



FIRST STEP PLAYGROUP



1.2a Use of Personal mobile phones, technological devices and cameras by staff and volunteers

* Throughout this policy the term non-staff may include children, parents, visitors and contractors.

1. Use of personal technological devices by staff and volunteers

First Step Playgroup recognises that staff, students and volunteers may wish to have their personal mobile phones at work for use in case of emergency. It is acknowledged that staff may also have other technological devices in their possession or within their personal belongings.

However, safeguarding of children within the setting is paramount and it is recognised that personal mobile phones and technological devices have the potential to be used inappropriately or distract from the safe supervision of the children. The setting management has implemented the following policy:

- Personal mobile phones and technological devices should only be used outside of working hours and never whilst children are present.
- Personal mobile phones and technological devices should be stored in kitchen in the storage box provided, located at the far end of the kitchen.
- In very unusual circumstances, such as a family emergency, staff and volunteers should seek permission from the manager or employer to use their mobile phone or a technological device.
- If a staff member, student or volunteer must use their mobile phone or technological device (see above) this should be away from the children and ensuring that staff supervision levels are not compromised.
- Staff, students or volunteers who ignore this policy and use a mobile phone or other technological device on the setting premises without permission may face disciplinary action.
- The setting's main telephone number 01487 843358 and 07855 035212 can be used for emergencies by staff or volunteers or by people who need to contact them.
- In circumstances such as outings and off site visits, staff will agree with their manager the appropriate use of personal mobile phones in the event of an emergency.
- Where there is a suspicion that the material on a mobile phone or technological device may be unsuitable and may constitute evidence relating to a criminal offence,
- the 'Allegations of Abuse' process will be followed (please refer to the setting's 'Child Protection Policy').
- Staff, students or volunteers remain responsible for their own property and will bear the responsibility of any losses.

2. Use of personal mobile phones, cameras and technological devices by non-staff*

First Step Playgroup recognises that visitors may wish to have their personal mobile phones and technological devices with them.

However, safeguarding of children within the setting is paramount and it is recognised that personal mobile phones and technological devices have the potential to be used inappropriately and therefore the setting management has implemented the following policy:

- Mobile phones and technological devices must only be used away from the children and where possible, off site.
- The setting's main telephone number can be used for emergencies.
- In exceptional circumstances, such as a family emergency, visitors should seek permission from the setting manager to use their mobile phone.
- Photos of children must not be taken without prior discussion with the setting manager and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and using the 'Use of images consent form' (please refer to the setting's document 'Guidance for settings on the use of images').
- In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on a mobile phone or technological device may be unsuitable and provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the 'Allegations of Abuse' process will be followed (please refer to the setting's 'Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy').
- Visitors remain responsible for their own property and will bear the responsibility of any losses.

3. Use of the setting's mobile phone, camera and technological devices

First Step Playgroup provides a technological device for staff, students and volunteers to use to support their work with children. To ensure the appropriate use of this equipment, and to safeguard children, the following policy applies:

- Only the camera and technological devices belonging to the setting may be used to take appropriate and relevant images of children, i.e. observations, photographs of setting events.
- Images must be used in accordance with the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.
- Cameras and technological devices should only be used where two or more staff members are present.
- It is not appropriate to take photographs of bruising or injuries on a child for child protection concerns. The 'Logging Concern Form and Body Map' must be used to record factual observations.
- The setting's mobile phone and technological devices must only be used for work related matters.
- In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the setting's mobile phone or technological devices may be unsuitable and provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the 'Allegations of Abuse' process will be followed (please refer to the setting's 'Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy').
- The setting's mobile phone and technological devices remain the property of the setting at all times and may be taken off the property in accordance with Ofsted's permission dated 19th March 2019 and staff must adhere to the risk assessment to support the privacy of families attending the settings.

* The setting also consider children's possession and use of mobile phones and technological devices and agree a clear protocol.

Adoption and annual review of the policy

This policy was adopted on:

20th March 2019

Signed on behalf of the
Management:

Angie Kelly

A. V. Kelly

This policy was
reviewed on:

07 October 2020

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Useful contacts

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