

Safeguarding Children

2.11 Acceptable Use of cameras & mobile phones Policy

Statement Of Intent

Our Lady of Lourdes Pre-School intends to provide an environment in which children, parents and staff are safe from images being recorded and inappropriately used in turn eliminating the following concerns:

- 1) Staff being distracted from their work with children
- 2) The safeguarding of children from inappropriate use of mobile phone cameras

AIM

Our aim is to:

Have a clear policy on the acceptable use of mobile phones and cameras that is understood and adhered to by all parties concerned without exception.

In order to achieve this aim, we operate the following Acceptable Use Policy:

MOBILE PHONES

Practitioners are allowed to bring in personal mobile telephones and devices to the setting.

Practitioners bringing personal devices into pre-school must ensure there is no inappropriate or illegal content on the device.

Under no circumstances may practitioners contact a current parent/carer using their personal device.

Practitioners must ensure that their mobile telephones/devices are left in the box, in the pre-school office throughout contact time with children.

They may be switched on but must remain on a silent profile.

Personal mobile phone calls may only be taken or made with the agreement of the setting Manager and outside of the pre-school rooms, preferably during break times.

If practitioners have a personal emergency they are free to use the setting's phone or make a personal call from in the area (within the setting) agreed upon by the setting Manager or Leader at the time.

Practitioners (will need to) ensure that the Manager has up to date contact information and that staff make their families, children's schools etc. aware of emergency work telephone numbers. This is the responsibility of the individual practitioners.

During group outings nominated staff will have access to the setting's mobile phone, and one other nominated personal mobile phone as a spare - which are to be used for emergency purposes only.

It is the responsibility of all members of staff to be vigilant and report any concerns (or non compliance to this policy) to the Manager, Leader or Chairperson.

Concerns will be taken seriously, logged and investigated appropriately (see allegations against a member of staff policy).

The Manager or Leader in his/her absence reserves the right to check the image contents of a member of staffs mobile phone should there be any cause for concern over the appropriate use of it.

Should inappropriate material be found then our Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will be contacted immediately. We will follow the guidance of the LADO as to the appropriate measures for the staff member's dismissal.

CAMERAS

DEVELOPMENTAL PROFILES

Photographs taken for the purpose of recording a child or group of children participating in activities or celebrating their achievements is an effective form of recording their progression in the Early Years Foundation Stage. However, it is essential that photographs are taken and stored appropriately to safeguard the children in our care.

Upon registration at the setting, parents/carers sign consent for photographs to be taken for such purpose and for publication to our website and other media.

Under no circumstances must mobile devices/cameras of any kind be taken into the toilets.

Only the designated setting camera/iPad is to be used to take such photographs as referred to above.

Images taken on this camera/iPad must be deemed suitable without putting the child/children in any compromising positions that could cause embarrassment or distress.

All practitioners are responsible for the location and storage of the camera/iPad; this should be placed within the locked filing cabinet when not in use.

The camera/iPad must be locked away in the filing cabinet at the end of every session.

The setting (admin) laptop is password protected and locked away when not in use.

Photographs are sometimes distributed to members of staff (key workers) to record in children's profiles. Key workers are not permitted to make extra copies of the photographs in any format.

WEBSITE

Photographs may only be downloaded by the Manager or Administrator.

Photographs may only be uploaded to the secure website by the Manager or with permission the Administrator only.

Permissions must be checked before children's photographs appear on our website. Upon registration at the setting, parents/carers sign consent for photographs to be taken for such purpose. If consent is withheld such photographs are not published of the individual child concerned.

Failure to adhere to the contents of this policy will lead to disciplinary procedures being followed.

EVENTS

During events such as end of term parties and parades parents are informed in writing (at least two weeks prior to the event) that they will be allowed to bring cameras/devices to record the event UNLESS A PARENT RAISES AN OBJECTION IN WRITING NO LATER THAN FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT. If such an objection is raised, the setting manager will decide whether the objection is reasonable and whether it warrants a complete camera ban or alternative arrangements made for that particular family. The manager will respond to the objection in writing within 48 hours.

Parents are not permitted to share photographs taken at events, on social networking sites, if they include children other than their own.

EXTERNAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Professional photographs are taken throughout the year. Parents are informed at least two weeks in advance when photographers will be visiting the setting for such purpose. Professional photographs will be taken UNLESS A PARENT RAISES AN OBJECTION IN WRITING NO LATER THAN FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT. If such an objection is raised, the setting manager will decide whether the objection is reasonable and how to make alternative arrangements for that particular family. The manager takes all reasonable precautions to ensure that professional photographers are DBS checked and that they have their own stringent regulations, which ensure safeguarding of children from inappropriate use of images.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

Our Lady of Lourdes Pre-School

Held on

_____ (date)

Date to be reviewed

_____ (date)

Signed on behalf of the management
committee

Name of signatory

Role of signatory (e.g. chair/committee)
