



EYFS Screen Use Policy

Date Reviewed:	19.08.2026
Next Review Date:	19.08.2027
Policy Owner:	Roxann Dowling

Date	Amendment	Staff Member

Mission Statement

We are committed to providing a supportive, enjoyable and family style environment in which every child is nurtured and encouraged to achieve their potential through a broad-based curriculum and opportunities for developing sporting, dramatic, artistic and musical talents.

Statement of Aims & Objectives

- To enable each child to fulfil their own academic and personal potential.
- To instil in every child the importance of developing personal initiative and to foster in them a belief that they can fulfil their potential in any area of school life.
- To provide a broad based academic and extra-curricular education that is delivered in such a way as to satisfy the learning needs of each and every pupil.
- To help each pupil to develop both a set of values and an understanding and appreciation of other religious beliefs.
- To learn the difference between right and wrong and to appreciate that rights and responsibilities are equally balanced.
- To develop and promote a sense of caring and community between the pupils within the school and the wider community as a whole.
- To instil in each pupil a high degree of self-respect and respect for their fellow pupils, teachers and other adults.
- To prepare each child for the transition to the next stage of their education and to be able to take advantage of any opportunities as they present themselves.

Safeguarding



Oakhyrst Grange School

Oakhyrst Grange School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. At this school we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for our pupils so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe that every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at Oakhyrst Grange School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all of our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying. This should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy.

All staff will be asked to complete training annually following KCSIE updates. Further safeguard training will take place throughout the year. All staff must wear their lanyards at all times.

The Safeguarding governor is: Pauline Clark Pauline.clark@oakhyrstgrangeschool.co.uk

DSL: Roxann Dowling (Head of EYFS)

DDSL: Gemma Mitchell (Headteacher)

DDSL: Faye Dance (Deputy Headteacher)

Telephone: 01883 343344

Safeguarding Team: DSL@oakhyrstgrangeschool.co.uk



Oakhyrst Grange School

1. Purpose

At Oakhyrst Grange School, we recognise that digital technology forms part of children's everyday lives. However, young children learn best through real-world experiences, play, movement, conversation, exploration and responsive interactions with adults and other children.

This policy sets out how screens and digital technology will be used safely, purposefully and appropriately within our Early Years provision.

This policy has regard to the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework effective from 1 September 2026** and the Department for Education guidance on screen use in early years settings.

2. Our Principles

Within Early Years:

- Screen use will be **limited and purposeful**.
- Screens will not routinely be used simply to occupy or entertain children.
- Screen use must have a **clear educational or developmental purpose**.
- Real-world, practical and play-based experiences will be prioritised.
- Screens will not replace high-quality adult interaction, physical activity, outdoor play, imaginative play, books, stories or social interaction.
- Staff will consider whether an activity could be delivered more effectively without a screen before choosing to use one.
- Children will be supported to develop healthy and safe attitudes towards technology.

3. Screen Time

Government guidance recommends:

- children under 2 should avoid screen time other than in exceptional circumstances;
- children aged 2–5 should have no more than **one hour of screen time per day, and less where possible**.

As children may also access screens at home, we will take a precautionary approach and keep screen use within the setting to a minimum.

There is **no expectation or entitlement for children to have daily screen time**.

Screen-based assistive technology required by a child with SEND is not included within these limits where its use supports the child's communication, access, wellbeing or development.

4. Appropriate Use of Screens

Screens may occasionally be used where they meaningfully enhance children's learning.

Examples may include:

- viewing a photograph, map or image connected to current learning;
- watching a short video demonstrating something that cannot easily be experienced directly;
- listening to music or joining in with songs;
- accessing carefully selected educational material;
- using technology to support communication;
- taking part in an appropriate video call;
- supporting children with SEND through appropriate assistive technology;
- teaching children about technology and how to use it safely.



Oakhurst Grange School

Where screens are used, staff should actively engage with children by talking, questioning, explaining and encouraging children to respond rather than allowing passive viewing wherever possible.

5. Screens Will Not Be Used

Screens will not routinely be used:

- as a reward;
- to manage children's behaviour;
- to occupy children while staff complete other tasks;
- during meals;
- in place of outdoor or physical activity;
- for prolonged periods;
- for unrestricted internet browsing;
- to expose children to inappropriate, excessively fast-paced or unsuitable content.

6. Content

Any digital content used with children must be:

- age appropriate;
- safe and suitable;
- linked to an identified learning or developmental purpose;
- free from inappropriate advertising wherever reasonably possible;
- used under appropriate adult supervision.

Staff must use professional judgement when selecting apps, websites, videos and other digital resources. A resource describing itself as "educational" does not automatically make it suitable for young children.

7. Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In line with current Department for Education guidance, children in the Early Years will **not routinely use generative AI tools, AI chatbots or toys with interactive AI features**.

The DfE currently advises avoiding children's direct use of AI in early years settings until there is stronger evidence about its impact on young children's development.

Any future use of AI with children will be reviewed in line with updated national guidance.

8. Online Safety

Where children access digital technology:

- appropriate filtering and monitoring arrangements will be in place;
- children will be supervised appropriately;
- staff will model safe and responsible use of technology;
- children will begin to learn simple, age-appropriate online safety messages;
- staff will follow the school's safeguarding, online safety and acceptable-use procedures.

Any online safety or safeguarding concern must be reported in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.

9. Photographs, Videos and Assessment

Digital devices may be used by authorised staff for legitimate educational, assessment and safeguarding purposes.



Oakhurst Grange School

However, staff should remain focused on interacting with and teaching children.

The number of photographs and videos taken of children should be kept to a reasonable minimum and should have a clear purpose.

Observational assessment should primarily be based on practitioners' knowledge, observations and professional judgement.

Images and information about children will only be stored or shared through school-approved, secure systems and in accordance with the school's data protection and safeguarding procedures.

Personal devices must not be used to photograph or record children.

10. Children with SEND

We recognise that digital and assistive technology can provide significant benefits for some children with SEND, particularly in relation to communication, accessibility and independence.

Reasonable adjustments will therefore be made where appropriate.

Decisions about the use of assistive technology will be based on the individual child's needs and, where appropriate, discussed with parents/carers and relevant professionals.

11. Staff Use of Screens

Staff should model healthy digital behaviour.

Use of laptops, tablets and other devices should not unnecessarily reduce practitioners' interaction with children.

Administrative tasks, assessments and communications should be completed efficiently and proportionately so that staff remain available to supervise, communicate with and teach children.

Personal mobile phones and devices must be managed in accordance with the school's safeguarding and mobile phone/device policies.

12. Working with Parents and Carers

We recognise that families make their own decisions regarding children's screen use at home.

The school will provide supportive, non-judgemental information about healthy screen habits where appropriate and may share relevant government guidance with families.

Parents and carers will be made aware that screen use within our Early Years provision is intentionally limited and purposeful.

13. Monitoring

The Head of Early Years will monitor the implementation of this policy through:

- observations of practice;
- discussion with staff;
- review of curriculum planning and resources;
- safeguarding monitoring;
- consideration of new national guidance.

Staff are expected to consider not simply **how long** children use screens, but **why the screen is being used and whether it adds meaningful value to the child's learning or development**.