

# Online Safety

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Little Pippins will take steps to ensure that there are effective procedures in place to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from the unacceptable use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment or exposure to inappropriate materials in the setting.

## Procedures

Our designated persons responsible for co-ordinating action taken to protect children are:

Sam Abbott –Manager

Brenda Pyke – Office Manager

### *Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment*

- Only ICT equipment belonging to the setting is used by staff and children.
- The designated person is responsible for ensuring all ICT equipment is safe and fit for purpose.
- All computers have virus protection installed.
- The designated person ensures that safety settings are set to ensure that inappropriate material cannot be accessed.

### *Internet access*

- Children do not normally have access to the internet and never have unsupervised access.
- If staff access the internet with children for the purposes of promoting their learning, written permission is gained from parents who are shown this policy.
- The designated person has overall responsibility for ensuring that children and young people are safeguarded and risk assessments in relation to online safety are completed.
- Children are taught the following stay safe principles in an age appropriate way:
  - only go on line with a grown up's approval,
  - be kind on line,
  - keep information about me safely,
  - only press buttons on the internet that I understand, and
  - tell a grown up if something makes me unhappy on the internet.
- Staff will also seek to build children's resilience in relation to issues they may face in the online world, and will address issues such as staying safe, having appropriate friendships, asking for help if unsure, not keeping secrets as part of social and emotional development in age appropriate ways.
- If a second hand computer is purchased or donated to the setting, the designated person will ensure that no inappropriate material is stored on it before children use it.
- All computers for use by children are located in an area clearly visible to staff.
- Children are not allowed to access social networking sites.

- Staff report any suspicious or offensive material, including material which may incite racism, bullying or discrimination to the Internet Watch Foundation at [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk).
- Suspicions that an adult is attempting to make inappropriate contact with a child on-line is reported to the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre at [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk).
- The designated person ensures staff have access to age-appropriate resources to enable them to assist children to use the internet safely.
- If staff become aware that a child is the victim of cyber-bullying, they discuss this with their parents and refer them to sources of help, such as the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk), or Childline on 0800 1111 or [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk).

#### *Email*

- Children are not permitted to use email in the setting. Parents and staff are not normally permitted to use setting equipment to access personal emails.
- Staff do not access personal or work email whilst supervising children.
- Staff send personal information by encrypted email and share information securely at all times.

#### *Mobile phones – children*

- Children do not bring mobile phones or other ICT devices with them to the setting. If a child is found to have a mobile phone or ICT device with them, this is removed and stored in the office until the parent collects them at the end of the session.

#### *Mobile phones – staff and visitors*

- Personal mobile phones are not used by our staff on the premises during working hours. They will be stored in the phone creche in the lobby or office.
- In an emergency, personal mobile phones may be used in an area where there are no children present, with permission from the manager.
- Our staff and volunteers ensure that family and other people who may need to contact them in an emergency know the setting telephone number.
- If members of staff or volunteers take their mobile phones on outings, for use in case of an emergency, they must not make or receive personal calls, or take photographs of children.
- Parents and visitors are requested not to use their mobile phones whilst in the play area or whilst attending for all or part of a session or other Little Pippins activity. All phones must be placed in the office or phone crèche as appropriate and parents/visitors will be advised to use an area such as the lobby to make calls, where no children are present.
- These rules also apply to the use of work-issued mobiles, and when visiting or supporting staff in other settings.

#### *Cameras and videos*

- Our staff and volunteers must not bring their personal cameras or video recording equipment into the setting.

- Photographs and recordings of children are only taken for valid reasons i.e. to record their learning and development, or for displays within the setting, with written permission received by parents (see the Registration and permissions form). Photographs will only be used on our website with signed parental permission. Such use is monitored by the Manager.
- Where parents request permission to photograph or record their own children at special events, general permission is gained from all parents for their children to be included. Parents are advised that they do not have a right to photograph anyone else's child or to upload photos of anyone else's children.
- If photographs of children are used for publicity purposes, parental consent must be given and safeguarding risks minimised, for example, ensuring children cannot be identified by name or through being photographed in a sweatshirt with the name of their setting on it.

### *Social media*

- No photographs or videos of children taken by staff or parents at Little Pippins or at Little Pippins events, offsite trips or activities shall be uploaded to any social media sites.
- Staff are advised to manage their personal security settings to ensure that their information is only available to people they choose to share information with.
- Staff should not accept service users, children and parents as friends due to it being a breach of expected professional conduct.
- In the event that staff name the organisation or workplace in any social media they do so in a way that is not detrimental to the organisation or its service users.
- Staff observe confidentiality and refrain from discussing any issues relating to work.
- Staff should not share information they would not want children, parents or colleagues to view.
- Staff should report any concerns or breaches to the designated person in their setting.
- Staff avoid personal communication, including on social networking sites, with the children and parents with whom they act in a professional capacity. If a practitioner and family are friendly prior to the child coming into the setting, this information is shared with the Manager prior to a child attending and a risk assessment and agreement in relation to boundaries is agreed.

### *Electronic learning journals for recording children's progress*

- Staff adhere to the Online Learning Journal policy with details on how the learning journal is managed to ensure children are safeguarded.
- Access to the online learning journal is password protected and staff and parents should not share this information with anyone else.
- Information and photographs from the online learning journal will not be copied to social media by staff or parents.
- Staff adhere to the guidance provided with the system at all times.
- Staff will sign an agreement for use of the online learning journey, which also covers access to the system from home. Where staff are given

permission to work from home, appropriate training will need to have been completed to ensure they are competent with GDPR and online safety procedures when working with sensitive information.

*Use and/or distribution of inappropriate images*

- Staff are aware that it is an offence to distribute indecent images. In the event of a concern that a colleague or other person is behaving inappropriately, the Safeguarding Children and Child Protection policy, in relation to allegations against staff and/or responding to suspicions of abuse, is followed.
- Staff are aware that grooming children and young people on line is an offence in its own right and concerns about a colleague's or others' behaviour are reported (as above).

**Further guidance**

- NSPCC and CEOP *Keeping Children Safe Online* training:  
[www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/get-expert-training/keeping-children-safe-online-course/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/get-expert-training/keeping-children-safe-online-course/)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Little Pippins Pre-school

Held on: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee ... *Laura Norton*

Role of signatory: Chair

Review date: 2021

**Related Policies**

Safeguarding Children

Staffing

Visitors

Online Learning Journal