



Social Media and Online Safety Policy

Introduction

At Clare House Nursery, we recognise that social media, online communication and digital technology play an important role in modern life and can provide valuable opportunities to communicate, celebrate children's achievements and share information with families.

We are equally aware that the use of social media, messaging platforms and other online services presents potential safeguarding, confidentiality and reputational risks if not used responsibly. This policy sets out clear expectations for all staff, students, volunteers, committee members, parents, carers and visitors to ensure that online communication is safe, respectful, lawful and protects the welfare of every child.

The safety and wellbeing of children is our highest priority. Everyone associated with Clare House Nursery has a responsibility to behave professionally online, maintain appropriate boundaries, protect confidential information and uphold the nursery's reputation at all times.

This policy supports our safeguarding responsibilities and should be read alongside our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Confidentiality Policy, Data Protection (GDPR) Policy, Mobile Phone and Camera Policy, Acceptable Use of Technology Policy and Staff Code of Conduct.

The nursery is committed to promoting safe and responsible use of technology in line with current legislation and national guidance, including the Online Safety Act 2023, the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Working Together to Safeguard Children, UK GDPR and guidance issued by the Department for Education, Ofsted and the UK Safer Internet Centre.

Online behaviour which places children, families, colleagues or the nursery at risk, breaches confidentiality, damages professional relationships or brings the nursery into disrepute may be treated as a safeguarding concern and/or a disciplinary matter.

Educational Use of YouTube and Digital Media

At Clare House Nursery, we recognise that carefully selected digital resources can enrich children's learning and development. As part of our curriculum, we may use YouTube to access age-appropriate songs, stories, movement sessions, phonics, language development activities and educational videos that support the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

We also use digital projection equipment to display educational images, videos and visual resources onto walls or interactive surfaces to enhance children's learning experiences, stimulate curiosity and support topics of interest. Examples may include photographs of animals, nature, seasons, occupations, transport, cultures, festivals, the natural world and other learning themes.

All digital content is:

- Carefully selected by staff to ensure it is age-appropriate, educational and suitable for young children.
- Accessed only by authorised staff members using nursery-owned devices.

- Previewed wherever possible before being shown to children.
- Used for educational purposes only and never as a substitute for high-quality adult interaction, play or teaching.
- Supervised by staff at all times.
- Used in line with current screen time guidance for children under five, ensuring screen use is purposeful, limited and supports children's learning rather than passive entertainment.
- Monitored to ensure advertisements, inappropriate content and unsuitable links are not accessible to children wherever possible.

Digital media is used to complement children's experiences, encourage discussion, inspire curiosity and support communication, language and understanding of the world whilst maintaining a balanced, play-based curriculum.

