

Mobile Phone & Wearable Technology

OSCAHS accepts that mobile technology is part of the ever-changing digital environment that we live and work in. OSCAHS continues to foster a 'culture of safety' in which the children and staff are protected from abuse, harm, and distress. We, therefore, have a clear policy on the acceptable use of mobile phones, tablet computers and wearable technology that have imaging and sharing capabilities, that is understood and adhered to by everyone; staff, children and parents.

Abiding by the terms of the club's policy ensures that we all:

- Protect children from harm and abuse.
- Ensure privacy is respected and online safety is preserved.
- Prevent staff from being subject to false allegations.
- Help staff remain focused on the care of children.
- Work in an open and transparent environment.

With the evolution of mobile phones, tablet computers and wearable technology that have camera facilities and sharing capabilities as standard, it is of the utmost importance that the way we deal with technology is managed safely.

Staff use of mobile phones, tablet computers and wearable technology

Personal mobile phones belonging to members of staff should be switched off and kept in the lockable filing cabinet during working hours.

Only tablet, computers and mobile phones that are owned and maintained by OSCAHS are permitted to be used on site. These have appropriate safeguards for their use and the use of the image-taking capabilities.

Wearable technology such as Smartwatches and Fitbits (this list is not exhaustive) are permitted to be worn by staff. However, communication or sharing capabilities must be disabled. If a member of staff uses communication or sharing technologies during session, this will lead to safeguarding procedures.

If a member of staff needs to make an urgent personal call they can use the Club phone or, with the manager's permission, make a personal call from their mobile in the kitchen area or a designated area away from children

If a member of staff has a family emergency or similar and needs to keep their mobile phone to hand, prior permission must be sought from the Manager or Deputy.

Under no circumstances may staff use their personal mobile phones or wearable technology to take photographs at the club during working hours.

Children's use of mobile phones

Whilst we understand that some children have mobile phones, tablet computers and wearable technology such as smartwatches, we do not permit their use within our Club. Therefore, children should not bring their devices into OSCAHS.

The club does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones brought to the club by the children.

Children must not use their mobile phone to take photographs of any kind whilst at the club. If they want a photograph of a particular activity they can ask a member of staff to take one using the club camera.

Visitors' and parents use of mobile phones

In the interest of safeguarding we ask all parents and visitors not to use their phones or other mobile devices on club premises.

Taking of photographs by parents or visitors is **strictly prohibited**. If a parent would like to have a photograph of their child involved in an activity or at play, they can ask a member of staff to take one using the Club camera.

Guidance

To safeguard children and practitioners online, our staff will be encouraged to refer to "Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations". (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-protecting-professionals-in-early-years-settings-online-safety-considerations>)

Related policies

See also: **Safeguarding Children policy**.

This policy was adopted and approved by:	Date: 01/09/2026
OSCAHS Board of Directors	Review Date: 01/08/2027

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2026)*: *Safeguarding and Welfare requirements: Safeguarding Policies and Procedures [3.4-3.6], Whistleblowing [3.7,3.8]*.