

Screen Use Policy

How we manage screen use with babies and young children.

BANBURY SCHOOL DAY NURSERY

Our approach

[Download this policy as a PDF](#)

We support children's learning, development, health and well-being by ensuring that any screen use is limited, purposeful, age appropriate and safely supervised.

This policy applies to staff, students, volunteers, agency staff, visitors and anyone else working with children at the setting. It covers screen-based devices used with or around children, including tablets, computers, mobile phones, televisions, interactive whiteboards, smart watches, gaming devices, e-readers and toys with screens.

Screen use must not replace play, movement, sleep, real-world exploration, communication or responsive adult interaction.

Our expectations

- Children under two years old will only use screens in exceptional circumstances.
- Children aged two to five will only use screens for short, planned activities kept well within recommended daily limits.
- Screen use will not be routine unless there is a clear agreed reason and a purpose supporting learning, communication, inclusion or well-being.
- Screen use will not replace adult interaction, active play, stories, songs, outdoor learning, creative activities or time with other children.

Children with SEND, communication needs or English as an additional language

Some children may benefit from screen-based assistive technology or digital resources that support communication, access, inclusion or well-being. Decisions are made individually, using professional judgement and in partnership with parents, carers and relevant professionals.

Assistive technology used to meet a child's specific needs is treated differently from general screen use.

Planning screen use

Screen use must be planned in advance. Staff will be clear about why it is being used and how it will support learning or development, and will consider whether the same aim could be met through a screen-free activity.

- Activities are adult-led and kept short.
- Children are not left to watch or use screens alone or without adult co-engagement.
- Staff talk with children, ask questions, invite comments and encourage them to think, predict, respond and take part.
- Screens are never used to occupy children, manage behaviour or calm children as a routine strategy.
- Screens are not used during mealtimes, within an hour before sleep, or left on in the background.
- Screen-free areas and times protect play, interaction, movement and rest.
- Screens are switched off when the planned activity ends.

Choosing safe and suitable content

- All digital content is checked by a member of staff before it is used.
- Content must be age appropriate, safe, calm and suitable for the children's stage of development.
- We avoid fast-paced or over-stimulating content, adverts, autoplay, scrolling feeds and algorithm-driven platforms.
- Artificial intelligence tools, AI-enabled toys and AI features are not used directly with children unless agreed by the manager and supported by a completed risk assessment.

Safeguarding and working with families

Screen use and digital devices are managed alongside our safeguarding and online safety policies. Concerns about online safety, unsuitable content, device use, images or children's welfare are reported to the designated safeguarding lead without delay and recorded through safeguarding procedures.

We share this policy with parents and offer practical, non-judgemental information about screen use at home. Positive advice includes shared viewing, limiting passive screen use, protecting sleep and mealtimes, and offering screen-free alternatives.

Leaders support staff to plan safe and purposeful screen use, check content and respond to safeguarding or online safety concerns. The manager or designated safeguarding lead monitors practice and reviews this policy against current guidance.

Related guidance: [Government guidance on screen use](#)