**Mini Explorers Club**

**Mobile Phone & Wearable Technology Policy**

Mini Explorers Club accepts that mobile technology is part of the ever changing digital environment that we live and work in. Mini Explorers Club 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 and other wearable technology 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 and wearable technology including camera facilities as standard, it is of the upmost importance that the way we deal with mobile phones and wearable technology is managed safely.

**Staff use of mobile phones and wearable technology**

Due to our family circumstances and childcare arrangements, staff (Lydia & Jade) need to be contactable, at all times, so will have their personal mobile phones on their person during working hours. These will be kept in their pockets when not in use.

Staff may occasionally use their personal mobile phones to take photographs of the children at the club, during working hours, however, if these photographs are to include children’s faces they will only be taken with express written/verbal permission of parents/carers beforehand and will not be shared on any social media platform without prior permission.

**Visitors’ 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 except whilst taking pictures of their own children at Stay and Play sessions. Taking of photographs by parents or visitors, of other children, without permission, is **strictly prohibited**. Under no circumstances may parents, carers/visitors share photos of other peoples children without permission from the child's parent/carer.

**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**.

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| This policy was adopted by: Mini Explorers Club | Date:19/03/24 |
| To be reviewed: March 2025 | Signed: Lydia Bradburn-Smith & Jade Smith |

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021): Safeguarding and Welfare requirements: Child Protection [3.4].*