

EYFS Screen Use and Digital Technology Policy

Reedley Primary School

Purpose

At Reedley Primary School, we recognise that digital technology is part of children's everyday lives and can provide valuable opportunities for learning, communication, creativity and inclusion. We also recognise that young children learn best through relationships, conversation, play, physical activity, outdoor experiences, stories and hands-on exploration.

Our approach is therefore to ensure that screen use is **purposeful, age-appropriate, supervised and balanced**, and does not replace high-quality interactions, play or physical activity.

This policy reflects the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements and current Department for Education guidance on screen use in early years settings.

Children's Screen Use

Screens are not a routine part of every child's day and are only used where they add value to children's learning or development.

For children aged 4 and 5, we follow current DfE guidance of **up to 1 hour of recreational screen use per day, and less if possible**. This is a maximum guideline, not a target, and children do not need to use a screen every day.

Screen use will not be used routinely:

- to occupy children
- as a reward or punishment
- to manage children's behaviour
- to calm or distract children
- as a substitute for adult interaction
- instead of physical activity, outdoor play or meaningful play

Purposeful Use of Technology

Where screens are used, they should have a clear purpose and support children's learning, development or inclusion.

Examples may include:

- listening to an appropriate story or music
- looking at a shared story
- researching a topic with an adult
- looking at photographs of children's experiences
- using a visualiser or other appropriate technology
- taking photographs or recording sounds as part of learning
- creating digital artwork

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- supporting communication
- supporting children with SEND

Staff should favour **active and interactive use** rather than prolonged passive viewing. Children will not have unrestricted access to the internet and will always be appropriately supervised.

Choosing Content

Staff are responsible for ensuring that any digital content used with children is:

- age and developmentally appropriate
- relevant to the learning experience
- checked before use
- free from inappropriate or disturbing content
- appropriate in length
- not unnecessarily fast-paced or overstimulating

Physical Activity, Rest and Mealtimes

Screen use must not reduce children's opportunities for physical development, outdoor play or movement. Children will continue to have regular opportunities for running, climbing, balancing, dancing, active play and exploration. Screens will not be used during mealtimes.

Tapestry

Reedley Primary School uses **Tapestry** as a secure online learning journal to record, assess and share children's learning and development.

Staff may use setting devices to:

- take photographs and short videos of children's learning
- record observations
- upload children's work and learning evidence
- record significant achievements and experiences
- support assessment and planning
- share appropriate information with parents and carers

Tapestry is primarily a **staff assessment and communication tool** and is not used to provide children with recreational screen time. Children may occasionally be shown photographs or observations on Tapestry to support conversation, reflection and recall. This will be adult-led and purposeful.

Staff will ensure that children are not required to spend prolonged periods looking at a screen while observations are recorded. The focus should remain on the child, their learning and interaction with the practitioner.

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Staff Use of Digital Devices

Staff will use setting-approved devices for Tapestry.

Staff must:

- keep devices secure
- keep passwords and login details confidential
- only access children's information for legitimate professional purposes
- follow the setting's photography and mobile phone procedures
- not use personal devices to photograph or record children unless specifically authorised
- ensure photographs and videos are stored securely
- maintain confidentiality

Any loss, inappropriate use or suspected data breach must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately.

SEND and Accessibility

We recognise that some children may benefit from digital technology as a communication, accessibility or learning tool. Where technology supports an individual child's needs, it may be used appropriately and should not be restricted simply because of general recreational screen-time guidance.

Staff will work with parents, the SENCO and relevant professionals where appropriate to ensure technology supports the child's participation and development.

Safeguarding and Online Safety

Children's safety is our priority. Staff must follow the setting's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Online Safety Policy when using digital technology. Children must not be exposed to inappropriate websites, images, advertising, communication or other unsuitable content.

Any safeguarding concern arising from the use of digital technology must be reported immediately to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**.

Partnership with Parents and Carers

We recognise that children's screen use at home may differ from their experience within the setting.

We will:

- share our approach to screen use with parents and carers
- explain the purpose of screen use within the setting

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- encourage healthy digital habits
- listen to parents' views and concerns
- consider individual family circumstances
- work in partnership with families to support children's wellbeing

Staff Responsibilities

The Leadership Team will:

- ensure this policy is implemented
- ensure staff understand their responsibilities
- monitor the appropriate use of screens and digital devices
- ensure Tapestry is used appropriately
- address any safeguarding or data protection concerns
- review the policy when relevant guidance changes

All staff are responsible for:

- following this policy
- supervising children's screen use
- using professional judgement
- ensuring content is appropriate
- prioritising children's interactions, play and physical activity
- using Tapestry appropriately and professionally
- maintaining confidentiality
- reporting concerns promptly

Monitoring and Review

The EYFS Leader will monitor the use of screens and digital technology through observations, staff discussions, feedback from parents and carers and regular review of practice. This policy will be reviewed **at least annually**, or sooner if there are changes to EYFS requirements, DfE guidance, safeguarding procedures or the setting's practice.

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