Media Use with Children Policy

1. Introduction

At our nursery, we recognise that carefully selected media, including videos, music, audio resources, and digital learning materials, can enhance children's learning and development when used appropriately. Media is used solely as an educational tool to support teaching, learning, creativity, communication, and wellbeing. It is not used as a substitute for direct interaction, active play, or quality adult-led engagement.

We are committed to ensuring that children's experiences remain primarily play-based, interactive, and developmentally appropriate, in line with the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies and procedures:

- Data Protection (GDPR) Policy
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy & Procedures
- Mobile Device Acceptance Form and User Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Social Media Code of Conduct Policy

2. Contents

1. Introduction
2. Contents
3. Purpose
4. Scope
5. Principles of media use
6. Acceptable use guidelines
7. Music use
8. Employee responsibility
9. Safeguarding considerations
10. Review and monitoring
11. Version control

3. Purpose

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Media use supports children's learning and development.

- Media is purposeful, planned, and age-appropriate.
- Screen exposure is limited and carefully monitored.
- Children continue to benefit from rich, hands-on learning experiences.
- Staff understand their responsibilities regarding appropriate media use.

4. Scope

This policy applies to all employees, volunteers, students, and visitors working within the nursery.

5. Principles of Media Use

Media may be used only when it has a clear educational purpose, including to:

- Support specific learning topics or themes.
- Introduce new concepts, ideas, or experiences.
- Enhance language and communication skills.
- Encourage movement, dance, and physical activity.
- Support music, rhythm, and creative expression.
- Promote cultural awareness and inclusion.
- Aid relaxation or transitions during appropriate times of the day.

Examples of acceptable educational media include:

- Songs and nursery rhymes
- Movement and dance videos
- Storytelling audio or video resources
- Educational clips linked to current learning topics
- Phonics, language, or number-based resources
- Nature, science, or cultural learning materials

6. Acceptable Use Guidelines

<u>Educational Purpose Only</u>
Media must always have a clear learning objective and be relevant to planned activities or children's developmental needs.

<u>Adult Supervision Required</u>
Children must always be supervised while media is in use. Employees should actively engage with children by asking questions, encouraging participation, and extending learning.

<u>Limited Screen Time</u>
Video-based media should be used sparingly and for short, purposeful sessions. Extended or passive viewing is not permitted.

<u>Age-Appropriate Content</u>
All content must be suitable for the children's age, stage of development, and emotional wellbeing.

Interactive Learning
Wherever possible, media should encourage interaction, discussion, movement, singing, or participation rather than passive watching.

No Entertainment-Only Use
Media must not be used solely to occupy, distract, or manage 3ehavior.

No Personal Device Use
Personal mobile phones, tablets, or other personal devices must not be used to play media for children.

7. **Music Use**

Music plays an important role in supporting children's emotional wellbeing, language development, and creativity. Music may be used to:

- Support routines and transitions
- Encourage singing and dancing
- Explore different cultures and languages
- Create calming environments for rest or quiet time

Volume levels must remain safe and appropriate for young children.

8. **Employee Responsibilities**

All employees are responsible for:

- Using media in accordance with this policy
- Selecting suitable educational content
- Ensuring media enhances rather than replaces meaningful interaction
- Monitoring children's responses to media
- Reporting concerns regarding inappropriate content or misuse

Room leaders and management are responsible for monitoring implementation of this policy.

9. **Safeguarding Considerations**

All digital content must be accessed through approved nursery devices, platforms, or resources. Employees must ensure:

- Internet access is safe and filtered where possible
- Content is checked before use
- No inappropriate advertisements or external links are visible to children

Any safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately in line with the nursery safeguarding policy.

10. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if required due to changes in guidance, legislation, or nursery practice.

11. Version control

	Date	Status	Comments	By
1	July 2026	Draft		Sophie Eade
2	August 2026	Issued		Sophie Eade
3	September 20226	Updated	Added policies to be read in conjunction with	Julia Pattenden