



# Mobile Phones, Social Media and Photography

**Approved by:** Natalie Herbert, Little Prep Nursery Manager

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Last Reviewed:** 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

**Next Review Due:** 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	2
2. Use of Cameras and the manipulation and storage of images.....	2
3. Photography by parents.....	3
4. Use of equipment.....	4
5. Editing and storage of photographs.....	4
6. Use of mobile phones and smart watches by members of staff and by volunteers in school .....	5
7. Social Networking.....	6

---

## 1. Introduction

To ensure the safety and welfare of the children in our care this policy outlines the protocols for the use of personal mobile phones/devices and cameras in the EYFS setting at Little Prep Nursery.

Little Prep takes steps to ensure that there are effective procedures in place to protect children in our care from the unacceptable use of smartphones and cameras in the setting.

## 2. Use of Cameras and the manipulation and storage of images

In this policy terms such as ‘photography’, ‘pictures’, ‘images’, ‘camera’, ‘device’ and ‘digital technology’ include both still and video media. The term ‘camera’ includes mobile phones, iPads and other equipment which has the capacity to take photographs.

At Little Prep Nursery we recognise that the appropriate use of photography enhances many aspects of school life and the pupils’ education. Mobile phone technology has become more sophisticated over recent years and will continue to evolve. Wireless connections in particular, extend the capabilities of mobile phones further; which allow access to new content and services, such as the internet, social networking sites and instant messaging. Many mobile phones offer camera, video and audio recording as standard. Mobile phones, alongside other technologies aim to change the way we communicate. This speed of communication often provides security and reassurance; however, as with any other form of technology, there are associated risks.

This policy is intended to ensure an environment in which children, parents and staff are safe from images being recorded and inappropriately used by providing a clear framework to ensure that:

- the use of cameras and the storage of images reflect good practice
- the safeguarding needs of the pupils are met
- staff are not distracted from their work with children.

The policy also recognises that learning to use digital technology is an important part of the ICT curriculum. Teaching needs to ensure that pupils are able to learn how to use digital cameras and to edit and store photographs with an understanding of safeguarding requirements, for themselves and others, which is appropriate for their age and taking due account of the cyber-bullying aspects of Little Prep Nursery’s anti-bullying policy. Reference should also be made to Little Prep Nursery’s Online Safety policy and planning for the internet safety topic in the ICT/PSHE scheme of work.

Photography is used at Little Prep Nursery for a variety of purposes, including:

- > Recording pupils' achievements, learning and progress.
- > Contributing to each pupil's evidence portfolio or pupil profile.
- > Providing evidence to support pupils' application for entrance/scholarship to their future schools.
- > Recording school events and providing material for displays.
- > Communication with parents, for example to help reassure new parents or carers of young children that they have settled well into Nursery life and provide prompt information on their children's activities.
- > For publicity purposes (brochures, prospectus, media articles, website etc.) for Little Prep Nursery.
- > To support work undertaken by members of staff or students on placements for training and gaining further qualifications.

On their child's admission to Little Prep Nursery, parents are asked to sign a consent form in relation to their child being photographed at school or during school events. The form provides for parents to give permission at different levels (for example to consent to their child being photographed to record achievement and progress, but not for publicity purposes.) The form also gives parents the opportunity to state whether a child in a photograph can be named.

Responses to the photography consent form are collated and the summary is available in the school office and on the school's management information system. It is important that staff familiarise themselves with this information. If parents withhold consent for certain aspects of photography in relation to their child, this must be respected. Images should be checked to determine whether photographs have been taken which inadvertently include pupils for whom consent has not been given. If this is the case, images should be destroyed, cropped or otherwise edited to ensure that parental consent is respected. If an image is edited for this reason, the original must be destroyed.

Periodically, professional photographers visit Little Prep Nursery by arrangement to take portrait photographs and formal pictures of sports teams etc. Care should be taken that parental consent is respected and that parents have not unintentionally withheld consent regarding such photographs. Any areas of doubt should be discussed with the Nursery Manager, who will arrange for parents to be contacted as appropriate. It is not compulsory for pupils to be included in portrait and team photography, nor is there any obligation on parents to purchase the resulting photographs.

From time to time a teacher, student or trainee teacher on placement may undertake a case study of a child, for example, as part of a training course to gain a qualification. In such situations, parental consent regarding photography must be respected. Case studies will only be undertaken following prior written consent from the parent or carer and, except by prior arrangement between the Nursery Manager and the parent/carer, the child's name will be changed in the case study to protect his or her identity.

Occasionally a photograph may be taken which inadvertently catches a pupil in an unfortunate, embarrassing or compromising position. If this is the case, the image and any copies of it must be destroyed immediately.

### **3. Photography by parents**

It is very difficult to police the use of cameras by parents, for example at prize giving or on the touchline at sports fixtures. However, if members of staff have concerns about the suitability of photography by parents, they should consult a DSL and/or the Nursery Manager, who will consider the situation with

reference to this policy and Little Prep Nursery's safeguarding procedures and take appropriate action. Concerns will be taken seriously, logged and investigated appropriately.

Any parent who works at Little Prep Nursery, for example as a volunteer, must abide by this policy. The teacher responsible (for example the trip leader for an educational visit which uses parent volunteers) must ensure that the parents involved are aware of this policy and abide by it.

If parents wish to make a video recording of a school event (nativity, concert, drama production etc.), prior permission must be obtained from the Nursery Manager, who will consider the situation with respect to this policy and the levels of consent given by parents of other children involved. Since it is difficult to ensure that parental consent is respected in these situations, and not appropriate to share the details of consent given for particular children with other parents, the Nursery Manager may refuse permission for a video recording of the event to be made. As an alternative, Little Prep Nursery may make an official video recording/DVD, the editing of which, before it is made available to parents, will ensure that parental consent is respected.

#### **4. Use of equipment**

Except with specific permission from the Nursery Manager, staff may not use their personal cameras, phones or other equipment to take pictures in Nursery or at Nursery/school events. Staff members may use the Nursery iPads and mobile phones for this purpose. Users bringing personal devices into Little Prep Nursery must ensure there is no inappropriate or illegal content on the device. Staff must ensure that this policy is observed when using other equipment that can be used in connection with photographs (photocopier, scanner, printer, iPads etc.)

#### **5. Editing and storage of photographs**

All images taken by members of staff or volunteers at Nursery or on Nursery activities remain the property of Little Prep Nursery. Little Prep Nursery may require images to be deleted or edited as appropriate and may also select images taken by members of staff or volunteers for other purposes, with due attention paid to the requirements of this policy.

When editing images, staff must take due professional care and ensure that edited images do not mislead or misrepresent. Care must also be taken to ensure that images do not result in their subject being vulnerable to embarrassment, teasing, bullying or abuse.

Close attention must be paid to the storage of images, particularly whilst kept on portable media such as flash cards and memory sticks. Staff are responsible for the security of such media and the images they contain and must take all reasonable measures to ensure that they are kept safe and do not come into the possession of unauthorised people.

Images must always be kept on school equipment and storage media and not transferred to personal devices or internet storage facilities.

All images must be stored permanently only in Little Prep Nursery's photograph archive on Little Prep Nursery intranet (except where they form part of other approved school documentation, such as a record of achievement, display, brochure or official website), where they will be monitored by the DSL and Nursery Manager. Once sorted and edited, images must be transferred to the archive and deleted from other personal and school equipment and temporary storage media.

To maintain security and enable subsequent users to work effectively, images on flash cards and other portable media must be deleted once they have been transferred. Similarly, where cameras have the capacity to save images without the need for a removable card, these must be deleted after use.

Unless specific prior consent has been obtained, members of staff and volunteers must not post school images on personal pages of social networking sites or other websites. The use of images on Little Prep Nursery's official Facebook page, website and other approved sites is carefully monitored by the DSL to ensure that it is in line with this policy and parental consent. The lower age limit for having a Facebook account is 13 and other social networks have similar restrictions. However, parents do not always enforce these restrictions. Staff must be vigilant in respect of any inappropriate use by pupils of Nursery images or their own photographs of school events on social networks and must report any concerns to the DSL.

The DSL is responsible for liaising with the chair of the parents' association (or other delegated member of the association) to ensure familiarity with this policy and that images used on the association's Facebook page and in newsletters and other literature and media abide by this policy and respect the levels of consent given by parents in respect of photography.

Final responsibility for the appropriate use of photography at school and in connection with school events rests with the Nursery Manager and the DSL. They monitor school images and may require an image to be deleted, edited or removed from a particular document, website etc. in accordance with the requirements of this policy.

Little Prep Nursery assesses the risk of access to archived images by inappropriate individuals to be very low. Staff and volunteers must ensure that their use and storage of images maintains a similarly acceptable level of risk.

## **6. Use of mobile phones and smart watches by members of staff and by volunteers in school**

Mobile phones (and smart watches) provide many benefits to school life, notably in improving health and safety through better communication with staff in more remote parts of Little Prep Nursery campus and on off-site visits. However, mobile phones, particularly those capable of taking pictures, also present a challenge to the Little Prep Nursery community to ensure that pupils are safeguarded in relation to the potential for improper use and that their education is not impeded using mobile phones at inappropriate times.

Little Prep Nursery Pupil handbook provides information on the use of mobile phones by pupils. Staff must be vigilant to ensure that the use of mobile phones, including their use by volunteers, visitors and pupils is always appropriate and that the safeguarding needs of the pupils are met. Any concerns should be discussed with the Nursery Manager or DSL. Concerns will be taken seriously, logged and investigated appropriately. Where a member of staff, visitor, volunteer or pupil has a mobile phone with the facility to take pictures, its use is subject to the policy on the use of cameras and the manipulation and storage of images, above.

- > On arrival at Nursery, staff should switch their phones off to ensure that they do not adversely affect their duties at Nursery and the pupils' education.
- > In cases of emergency (for example a seriously ill relative) mobile phones should be left in the office, office staff should be alerted, and the phone can be left switched on so that a message can be relayed.
- > Staff may use their phone at break times and lunch time provided that (i) pupils are not present, (ii) they are not on duty and (iii) this does not prevent them from responding to a request for assistance from another member of staff or other aspects of their professional duties.

- > Little Prep Nursery site manager and members of SLT are exempt from the restrictions on the use of mobile phones whilst on duty so that they can be always contacted by Little Prep Nursery office in case of an emergency.
- > Nursery mobile phones are available from the Little Prep Nursery office. A school phone must be collected by members of staff engaged in particular school activities where it is important to maintain communication with Little Prep Nursery office. These include:
  - Use of local offsite PE facilities
  - Educational visits and away sports fixtures
  - After-school care and holiday club
  - Situations where, by prior arrangement with the Nursery Manager, a single member of staff is directly responsible for a group of pupils and a second member of staff is “on call” nearby.
- > Nursery mobile phones should not be used for personal calls. After use they must be signed back in at Little Prep Nursery office. Any problem with the phone should be reported as soon as possible.
- > By arrangement with the Nursery Manager, a member of staff’s personal mobile phone may be designated as the means of communication for specific activities (i.e. those listed above). In such situations, it is expected that this policy will be observed in respect of personal use. The cost of calls made on school business will be reimbursed, provided that they can be identified on an itemised bill or otherwise.
- > The use of mobile phones by staff whilst on Nursery duties must respect national legislation and common courtesies. For example, they must not be used whilst driving and should be switched to silent at events and venues where this is expected.
- > Little Prep Nursery assesses the risk to pupils through the improper use of mobile phones to be very low. Staff and volunteers must ensure that their use of mobiles phones maintains this level of risk.

## **7. Social Networking**

- > Staff will be advised never to give out personal details of any kind which may identify them, the nursery or their location.
- > Staff will be advised that they must not post anything on to social networking sites that could offend any other member of staff or parent using the nursery.
- > Staff will be advised that they must not post anything on to social networking sites such as Facebook that could be construed to have any impact on the nursery’s reputation or relate to the nursery or any children attending the nursery in any way