



Screen Use Policy

Last reviewed: 24 August 2026

Approved by: Management Team

Review frequency: Every 2 years

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how Crossley Mill Nursery uses screens and digital devices in line with the [Department for Education's Early Years Screen Use Guidance \(13 July 2026\)](#). Our aim is to ensure that any screen use supports children's learning, development, and wellbeing, while minimising sedentary time.

2. Principles

- **Child-Centred:** Screen use is purposeful, age-appropriate, and enhances—not replaces—hands-on, active, and social learning.
- **Balanced Approach:** Digital media is one of many tools used to support the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum.
- **Wellbeing First:** We prioritise physical activity, outdoor play, and face-to-face interaction over screen-based activities.

3. Acceptable Use

Screens may be used for:

- Short, interactive educational activities (e.g., phonics games, story animations).
- Supporting children with additional needs (e.g., visual aids, communication tools).
- Sharing photos/videos of children's learning with parents via secure platforms.
- Staff training, planning, and assessment (not in the presence of children unless relevant to learning).

4. Time Limits

- **Under 2 years:** No planned screen use.
- **Ages 2–5:** Maximum of **15 minutes at a time**, no more than **30 minutes total per day** in nursery hours.
- Screen time is always supervised and interactive, never passive viewing.

5. Safeguarding & Online Safety

- All devices are password-protected and use secure, age-appropriate apps or websites.
- Internet access for children is restricted to pre-approved content.
- Staff follow the nursery's **ICT, Social Networking, Internet, Online Safety, & Cyber Security Policy**.

- No personal devices are used for nursery activities.

6. Environment & Practice

- Screens are used in well-lit, communal areas—not as a substitute for supervision.
- Children are encouraged to move, stretch, and engage in physical play before and after screen use.
- Staff model healthy digital habits.

7. Partnership with Parents

- We share our approach to screen use with parents and encourage consistent, balanced use at home.
- We provide guidance on safe, age-appropriate digital activities for families.

8. Monitoring & Review

- Screen use is recorded in planning documents and reviewed termly.
- The policy is reviewed annually or sooner if guidance changes.