

Hemingford Grey Playgroup

Use of mobile phones, cameras and technological devices policy

January 2019

* Throughout this policy the term non-staff may include children, parents, visitors and contractors.

1. Use of personal technological devices by staff and volunteers

Hemingford Grey Playgroup recognises that staff, students and volunteers may wish to have their personal mobile phones at work for use in case of emergency. It is acknowledged that staff may also have other technological devices in their possession or within their personal belongings.

However, safeguarding of children within the setting is paramount and it is recognised that personal mobile phones and technological devices have the potential to be used inappropriately or distract from the safe supervision of the children. The setting management has implemented the following policy:

- Personal mobile phones and technological devices should only be used outside of working hours and never whilst children are present.
- Personal mobile phones and technological devices should be stored in staff lockers or in the staff room. The setting will need to consider where devices will be stored if lockers are not available given the potential safeguarding risks.
- In very unusual circumstances, such as a family emergency, staff and volunteers should seek permission from the manager or employer to use their mobile phone or a technological device.
- If a staff member, student or volunteer must use their mobile phone or technological device (see above) this should be away from the children and ensuring that staff supervision levels are not compromised.
- Staff, students or volunteers who ignore this policy and use a mobile phone or other technological device on the setting premises without permission may face disciplinary action.
- The setting's main telephone number can be used for emergencies by staff or volunteers or by people who need to contact them.
- In circumstances such as outings and off site visits, staff will agree with their manager the appropriate use of personal mobile phones in the event of an emergency.
- Where there is a suspicion that the material on a mobile phone or technological device may be unsuitable and may constitute evidence relating to a criminal offence,
- the 'Allegations of Abuse' process will be followed (please refer to the setting's 'Child Protection Policy').

- Staff, students or volunteers remain responsible for their own property and will bear the responsibility of any losses.

2. Use of personal mobile phones, cameras and technological devices by non-staff*

Hemingford Grey Playgroup recognises that visitors may wish to have their personal mobile phones and technological devices with them.

However, safeguarding of children within the setting is paramount and it is recognised that personal mobile phones and technological devices have the potential to be used inappropriately and therefore the setting management has implemented the following policy:

- Mobile phones and technological devices must only be used away from the children and where possible, off site.
- In exceptional circumstances, such as a family emergency, visitors should seek permission from the setting manager to use their mobile phone.
- The setting's main telephone number can be used for emergencies.
- Photos of children must not be taken without prior discussion with the setting manager and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and using the 'Use of images consent form' (please refer to the setting's document 'Guidance for settings on the use of images').
- In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on a mobile phone or technological device may be unsuitable and provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the 'Allegations of Abuse' process will be followed (please refer to the setting's 'Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy').
- Visitors remain responsible for their own property and will bear the responsibility of any losses.

3. Use of the setting's mobile phone, camera and technological devices

Hemingford Grey Playgroup provides a mobile phone and camera for staff, students and volunteers to use to support their work with children. To ensure the appropriate use of this equipment, and to safeguard children, the following policy applies:

- Only the camera and technological devices belonging to the setting may be used to take appropriate and relevant images of children, i.e. observations, photographs of setting events.
 - Images must be used in accordance with the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.
 - Cameras and technological devices should only be used where two or more staff members are present.
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- It is not appropriate to take photographs of bruising or injuries on a child for child protection concerns. The 'Logging Concern Form and Body Map' must be used to record factual observations.
- The setting's mobile phone must only be used for work related matters.
- In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the setting's mobile phone or technological devices may be unsuitable and provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the 'Allegations of Abuse' process will be followed (please refer to the setting's 'Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy').
- The setting's mobile phone and technological devices remain the property of the setting at all times and should not be taken off of the premises (with the exception of visits and outings).

Adoption of the Policy

This policy was adopted by Hemingford Grey Playgroup Committee and staff on 16th January 2013 and reviewed in a committee meeting on 14th January 2014. Amended at a meeting held 22nd September 2015. Reviewed at a meeting held on 8th March 2016. Reviewed Jan 2019

Signed by the chairperson on behalf of the committee:

..... (chairpersons name - block capitals)

..... (Chairpersons signature) (Date)

Useful contacts

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