

South Cave Kids Club

Mobile Phones and other Electronic Devices Policy

South Cave Kids Club accepts that mobile technology is part of the ever changing digital environment that we live and work in. **South Cave Kids Club** continues to foster a 'culture of safety' in which the children and staff are protected from abuse, harm, and distress. We therefore have a clear policy on the acceptable use of mobile phones, tablet computers and wearable technology that have imaging and sharing capabilities, that it is understood and adhered to by everyone: staff, children and parents.

Abiding by the terms of the club's mobile phone policy ensures that we all:

- Protect children from harm and abuse
- Ensure privacy is respected and online safety is preserved
- Prevent staff from being subject to false allegations
- Help staff remain focused on the care of children
- Work in an open and transparent environment.

With the evolution of mobile phones, tablet computers and wearable technology that have camera facilities and sharing capabilities as standard, it is of the upmost importance that the way we deal with technology is managed safely.

Staff use of mobile phones, tablet computers and wearable technology

Personal mobile phones belonging to members of staff should be put away and not used during working hours given express permission by the manager.

Only technologies that are owned and maintained by **South Cave Kids Club** are permitted to be used on site. These have appropriate safeguards for their use and the use of image taking capabilities which includes; staff supervision when used, disabled internet connections were applicable and blocking were possible.

Wearable technology such as Smart watches and Fitness trackers (this list is not exhaustive) are permitted to be worn by staff, they may only be used as a watch when working with children. This means that all other functions including image sharing capabilities must be disabled (Using flight mode) or only as part of an activity such as stopwatches etc.

If a member of staff needs to make an urgent personal call they can use the club phone or make a personal call from their mobile in the Staff office or outside after requesting. If a member of staff has a family emergency or similar and needs to keep their mobile phone to hand, prior permission must be sought from the Manager or Deputy.

Under no circumstances may staff use their personal mobile phones or wearable technology to take photographs at the club during working hours unless given express permission by the Manager and any photos taken must be deleted as soon as possible.

Children's use of mobile phones

In regards to children we understand that some have mobile phones, tablet computers and wearable technology such as smart watches, we actively discourage them from using their phones within the club and these are not permitted to be used whilst children are at the club, we ask that phones are left in bags\lockers and other devices have flight mode turned on, our Wi-Fi password is not given out to children.

The club does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones brought to the club by the children.

Children must not use their mobile phone to take photographs of any kind whilst at the club. If they want a photograph of a particular activity they can ask a member of staff to take one using the club camera.

Visitors' use of mobile phones

In the interest of safeguarding we ask all parents and visitors not to use their phones or other mobile devices on the club premises.

Taking of photographs by parents or visitors is **strictly prohibited**. If a parent would like to take a photograph of their child involved in an activity or at play, they can ask a member of staff to take one using the clubs camera.

Guidance

To safeguard children and practitioners online, our staff will be encouraged to refer to "Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations". (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-protecting-professionals-in-early-years-settings-online-safety-considerations>)

Related policies

See also: **Safeguarding Children policy**.

This policy was adopted by South Cave Kids Club	Date: 15/09/2025
To be reviewed:	Signed:

Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2025): Safeguarding and Welfare requirements: Safeguarding Policies and Procedures [3.4 – 3.6], Whistleblowing [3.7, 3.8]