St. James
C. of E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Framework for Screen time

At St James CofE Primary School, we recognise that technology and screens are valuable educational tools when used appropriately. All staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn. This policy sets out our approach to the use of screens in school, ensuring that all screen-based activities support curriculum objectives, safeguard pupils, and promote their wellbeing.

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, volunteers, and visitors using screens within our school premises or during education-related activities.

Purpose and Scope

- To ensure all screen use in school is educationally purposeful and age-appropriate for pupils aged 5-11
- To safeguard pupils from harmful and inappropriate online content
- To establish clear expectations for staff regarding screen use
- To promote responsible digital citizenship

This policy covers:

- Interactive whiteboards and classroom displays
- School computers, tablets, and other devices
- Educational software and programmes
- Online learning platforms
- Staff use of screens in the presence of pupils

Educational Use of Screens

Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception Class)

In line with DfE guidance (*Help for Early Years Providers: Screen Use*), screen use in EYFS must enhance learning rather than replace active play, physical movement, and adult interaction:

- Children aged 2–5 years must be limited to **no more than 1 hour** of total screen time per day.
- Screen activities must have a clear pedagogical intent and must be interactive and co-viewed with an adult.
- Screen activities must incorporate or lead directly into physical movement and hands-on, real-world exploration.
- Screens **must not** be used to calm children, manage behaviour, entertain children during routine transitions, or occupy them while waiting.
- Content must be free of autoplay, scrolling feeds, and algorithmic recommendations. Children in EYFS must not use AI tools, generative applications, or smart devices/toys with built-in AI capabilities.
- Staff will offer supportive, non-judgmental guidance to parents/carers regarding healthy screen habits at home.

Staff must:

- Preview all educational content before showing it to pupils
- Keep records of educational programmes used and their learning purposes

- Ensure content aligns with the school's curriculum and values
- Test technology and content beforehand to avoid disruption

Key Stage 1 and 2

All screen-based activities must:

- Support clear curriculum objectives and learning outcomes
- Use only educational programmes that have been previewed and approved by teaching staff
- Be age-appropriate for primary pupils (ages 5-11)
- Be integrated into planned lessons with specific educational purposes
- Balance screen-based learning with other teaching methods

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- Keep records of educational programmes used and their learning purposes
- Ensure content aligns with the school's curriculum and values
- Test technology and content beforehand to avoid disruption

Prohibited Content

Staff must not:

- Allow pupils to access non-educational content during lesson time
- Use streaming services (e.g., Netflix, YouTube) for entertainment purposes
- Show content that hasn't been vetted for educational value and age-appropriateness
- Allow pupils to browse the internet unsupervised
- Assume content is safe without checking it first

Wet play, treat time and After-School Club Provision

St James CofE Primary School recognises that occasional screen-based entertainment, such as watching films or programmes, may be appropriate during wet play, treat time or after-school club sessions as a reward. However, even during these times, safeguarding remains paramount and content must be carefully selected and monitored.

U-rated content only:

- Only films and programmes with a U (Universal) rating will be shown during treat time or after-school clubs without expressed written permission from parents/carers
- U-rated content is suitable for audiences aged 4 years and over
- This ensures content is appropriate for all primary-aged pupils (5-11 years)
- Any content rated PG (Parental Guidance) or above requires expressed written permission from parents/carers before it can be shown

Staff must consider:

- Whether the content is suitable for the youngest pupils who may be present
- Any known sensitivities or vulnerabilities of pupils attending
- The context in which the content will be shown (e.g., time of day, size of group)
- Whether the content could trigger concerns for pupils with particular experiences or backgrounds

Safeguarding Requirements

Staff should be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. Children are at risk of abuse and other risks online as well as face to face. Keeping Children Safe in Education Keeping Children Safe in Education
Staff should be aware of online safety risks categorised into four areas:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, for example: pornography, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation,

extremism, misinformation, disinformation (including fake news) and conspiracy theories
- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users
- **Conduct:** online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm
- **Commerce:** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and financial scams Keeping Children Safe in Education Keeping Children Safe in Education

Staff Responsibilities

All staff must:
- Actively supervise pupils during all screen-based activities
- Report any concerning content or pupil behaviour immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- Never promise pupils confidentiality if they disclose something concerning during online activities
- Ensure filtering and monitoring systems are working properly
- Follow the school's child protection policy and safeguarding procedures

Staff must not:
- Ignore or dismiss concerns about online content or pupil interactions
- Allow pupils to share personal information through educational programmes
- Bypass filtering or monitoring systems under any circumstances

Filtering and Monitoring

The school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and regularly reviews their effectiveness. The leadership team and relevant staff have an awareness and understanding of the provisions in place and manage them effectively.

The school will:
- Maintain appropriate filtering systems to block harmful and inappropriate content
- Regularly review filtering and monitoring provision at least annually
- Ensure filtering does not unreasonably restrict educational content
- Have effective monitoring strategies in place that meet safeguarding needs
- Ensure staff understand how to escalate concerns identified through monitoring

Implementation Procedures

Before the Lesson all staff must:
1. Check the educational programme aligns with learning objectives
2. Test the technology and content beforehand
3. Prepare alternative activities in case of technical issues
4. Brief any support staff on their role during screen-based activities

During the Lesson:
1. Explain the educational purpose to pupils
2. Set clear expectations for behaviour
3. Actively monitor what pupils are viewing

The school will ensure:
- This policy is shared with all staff at induction
- Staff receive training on online safety and appropriate screen use
- Regular updates are provided on emerging online safety risks
- Staff understand their responsibilities under this policy
- The DSL provides ongoing support to staff regarding screen use and safeguarding