

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: 3.94 Providers must have regard to the following guidance on children's screen use in early years settings: Help for early years providers: Screen use.



Screen Use Policy

Policy statement

This policy sets out how Cotswold Bunnies Nurseries manages screen use to support children's learning, development, health and wellbeing. It reflects the latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which emphasises limiting screen use, prioritising real-world interaction, and ensuring content is slow-paced, age-appropriate and used intentionally.

Procedures

- Screen use is intentional, limited and purposeful, never a default activity.
- Real-world play, social interaction, physical activity and conversation remain central to children's development.
- Under-2s do not use screens, except for exceptional circumstances such as video calls with parents/carers.
- Children aged 2–5 may engage in carefully planned screen use, kept well below the recommended maximum of one hour per day, recognising that many children may already reach this limit at home.
- Co-viewing with an adult is preferred over solo screen use.
- Assistive technologies for children with SEND are exempt from time limits when they support communication, wellbeing or access.

When Screens may be used

Screen use is permitted only when it directly supports learning or development aims, such as:

- Introducing a topic through slow-paced, age-appropriate educational content (e.g., short videos supporting phonics, nature, or story comprehension).
- Supporting communication aids or assistive technology for children with SEND.

- Occasional video calls to support emotional wellbeing (e.g., parent deployed or hospitalised).
- Staff use of digital devices for administration, observations, or SEN documentation, not for child entertainment.
- Music may be played from devices, but staff must make every effort to ensure children do not watch the screens unnecessarily.

Screens are never used:

- As a behaviour management tool
- To occupy children during transitions
- During mealtimes or the hour before rest/nap times

Content Standards

All content must be:

- Slow-paced, avoiding fast-cut, social-media-style videos
- Age-appropriate (no more than a U rating), calm and predictable
- Educational, Topic Based and linked to EYFS learning outcomes
- Ad-free and from trusted sources
- Viewed with an adult, who talks about the content, asks questions and supports language development

Staff must preview content before use

Duration and Frequency

- Under 2s: No screen time except exceptional circumstances.
- Ages 2–5:
- Screen use is rare, time-limited, and planned.
- Sessions should be short (5–10 minutes) and part of a wider learning sequence.
- Daily screen use is not routine and should remain well below the one-hour daily limit recommended for home and settings combined.
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SEND Considerations

For children with SEND:

- Screen-based assistive technologies may be used as needed, without time restrictions.
- Staff will work with parents and specialists to ensure screen-based tools support communication, regulation or access.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff must:

- Follow this policy consistently
- Ensure screen use is intentional, supervised, and linked to learning
- Record screen-based activities in planning where relevant
- Communicate with parents about how screens are used in the setting

Working with Parents and Carers

We recognise that screen use at home varies widely. We will:

- Share this policy with families
- Offer guidance on healthy screen habits
- Encourage alternatives such as shared reading, play and conversation
- Provide non-judgemental support aligned with government advice

Monitoring and Review

- The SENCO and Manager will monitor screen use across rooms.
- This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if DfE guidance changes.
- Any concerns about inappropriate screen use will be addressed through staff training and supervision.

This policy works alongside our *Use of Mobile Phones, Cameras and Smart Devices* policy.

Legal framework

- Early Years Foundation Stage Framework Sept 2026

Further guidance

- Early Help for Early Years Providers: Screen Use

This Policy was adopted by:		Cotswold Bunnies Nurseries Ltd	
On:	18/08/2026	Date to be reviewed:	18/08/2027

Signed on behalf of the Provider:			
Name of Signatory:	Pippa Collins		
Role of Signatory (e.g, Chair, Director or Manager)	Area Manager		