



AMESBURY SCHOOL
HINDHEAD

USE OF MOBILE DEVICES IN EYFS

Last updated: MA/May 2026
Next update: MA/April 2027

Use of mobile devices in EYFS

This policy refers to all electronic devices able to take pictures, record videos, send or receive calls and messages. This includes cameras, mobile telephones, tablets and any recording devices including smartwatches. More and more devices are technically capable of connecting us to the outside world. We will adapt the policy to include all devices we deem necessary to safeguard children.

1. Mobile phones and other devices that accept calls, messages and video calling

- 1.1 At Amesbury School's EYFS we promote the safety and welfare of all children in our care. We believe our staff should be completely attentive during their hours of working to ensure all children in the nursery receive good quality care and education.
- 1.2 To ensure the safety and well-being of children we do not allow staff to use personal mobile phones, smartwatches and/or Fitbits during working hours.
- 1.3 As a means of contact in certain circumstances, such as outings, we take school tablets and staff have their personal phones to be used in case of an emergency to call the school or parents.
- 1.4 This policy should be used in conjunction with our online safety and acceptable IT use policies, to ensure children are kept safe when using nursery devices online.

2. School Mobile Phones

School mobile phones are now available for use by staff during outings or other specific activities where communication is needed. These phones are to be used strictly for work-related purposes, including contacting parents, management, or emergency services.

3. Parents' use of mobile phones and wearables

Parents are kindly asked to refrain from using their mobile telephones whilst in the nursery or when collecting or dropping off their children. We will ask any parents using their phone inside the nursery premises to finish the call or take the call outside. We do this to ensure all children are safeguarded and the time for dropping off and picking up is a quality handover opportunity where we can share details about your child.

Parents are requested not to allow their child to wear or bring in devices that may take photographs or record videos or voices. This includes smart watches with these capabilities, such as Vtech. This ensures all children are safeguarded and also protects their property as it may get damaged or misplaced at the nursery.

4. Visitors' use of mobile phones and smartwatches

Visitors are not permitted to use their mobile phones or smart watches while in the Nursery.

5. Photographs and videos

- 5.1 At Amesbury school EYFS, we recognize that photographs and video recordings play a part in the life of the nursery. We ensure that any photographs or recordings (including CCTV) taken of children in our nursery are only done with prior written permission from each child's parent and only share photos with parents in a secure manner. We will obtain this permission when each child is registered and update it on a regular basis to ensure that this permission is still valid.
- 5.2 We ask for individual permissions for photographs and video recordings for a range of purposes including: use in the child's learning journey; for display purposes; for promotion materials including our nursery website, brochure and the local press; and for security in relation to CCTV and the different social media platforms we use. We ensure that parents understand that where their child is also on another child's photograph, but not as the primary person, that may be used in another child's learning journey. Photographs and videos will not be taken in areas where intimate care routines are carried out.
- 5.3 If a parent is not happy about one or more of these uses, we will respect their wishes and find alternative ways of recording their child's play or learning.
- 5.4 Photographs or videos recorded on nursery mobile devices will be transferred to the correct storage device to ensure no images are left on these mobile devices.
- 5.5 Parents, and children, are not permitted to use any recording device or camera (including those on mobile phones or smartwatches) on the nursery premises without the prior consent of the manager.
- 5.6 During special events, e.g. Christmas or leaving parties, staff may produce group photographs to distribute to parents on request. In this case we will gain individual permission for each child before the event. This will ensure all photographs taken are in line with parental choice. We ask that photos of events such as Christmas parties are not posted on any social media websites/areas without permission from parents of all the children included in the picture.
- 5.7 At Amesbury school EYFS, we use tablets in the rooms to take photos of the children and record these directly on to their electronic learning journeys. We ensure that these devices are used for this purpose only and do not install applications such as social media or messaging sites on to these devices.
- 5.8 We also do routine checks to ensure that emails and text messages (where applicable) have not been sent from school devices and remind staff of the whistleblowing policy if they observe staff not following these safeguarding procedures.