

## **Mobile Phone and Social Networking**

Staff and volunteers at Storyy Group will take all reasonable steps to safeguard themselves and the children/ young people in the setting through a variety of methods including the appropriate use of modern technology.

### **Aim**

- To establish and maintain a safe environment.
- To raise awareness amongst employees, visitors and children of good practice regarding modern technology.
- To take all reasonable precautions to protect colleagues, visitors and children by reducing risks.

### **Methods**

Storyy Group staff should not use their personal mobile phones during their working day. Any member of staff who needs to be contactable in an emergency should give out the settings mobile and/ or landline numbers. Mobile phones should never be used to take photographs or videos of children/ young people. The provisions have their own camera which can be used. Adult consent should always be sought and given before taking any photographs. At Storyy this is sought through the induction packs where parents and carers can give permission.

Staff should never comment on any work-related matters on a social networking site (such as Facebook) nor refer to work related business. They should also maintain professional boundaries by not accepting or initiating friend requests from children or young people using the setting or their family members.

The same boundaries also apply to other communication methods e.g. Twitter, YouTube etc.

### **Users:**

Storyy Group recognises children and young people that bring in their personal devices may have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks (i.e. 3G, 4G and 5G). These networks will not have the filtering and monitoring systems in place that the provision wifi has. This access means some children, whilst in provision may be able to sexually harass, bully, and control others via their mobile and smart technology, share indecent images consensually and non-consensually and view and share pornography and other harmful content.

This risk is reduced as far as possible through staff discouraging children and young people (and staff) from using their mobile phones (including texting) on the site. If staff become aware of inappropriate activity on mobile phones, this will be managed through the Behaviour Policy (or code of conduct for staff). Staff may use the powers within the search and confiscation guidance if required to confiscate mobile devices.

Reviewed by Natalie Lee - 05/05/2023

Next review – 05/05/2024