



E-SAFETY POLICY

ICT in the 21st Century is seen as an essential resource to support learning, as well as playing an important role in the everyday lives of children, young people and adults. Consequently, Fusion Childcare Services need to factor in the use of such technology in order to arm our children with the skills to access life-long learning and employment as well as understanding how to stay safe online. It is crucial for children to have a healthy and balanced relationship with technology and become resilient. Fusion do not rely on technology as a play resource and will use other means to educate children, such as books, sharing info etc, but Fusion do their utmost to support children when accessing the internet and staying safe online, by using material from UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), such as 'Education for a Connected World'.

Information and Communications Technology covers a wide range of resources including; web-based learning. It is also important to recognise the constant and fast paced evolution of ICT within our society as a whole. Currently the internet technologies children and young people use at Fusion are:

- Search Engines
- Websites
- Pinterest, Youtube, Cbbc, (where possible we do not let Children see Ads)
- KidsYoutube
- Kidz Search
- Learning Platforms for homework such as TT Rockstars
- Devices, such as Tablets, Kurios/iPads that have access to the Internet have parental controls and restrictions
- Apps- age appropriate and where possible educational but always downloaded by Management.

Whilst exciting and beneficial both in and out of the context of education, much ICT particularly web-based resources, are not consistently policed. All users need to be aware of the range of risks associated with the use of these Internet technologies and supporting children in being digitally resilient.

At Fusion Childcare Services we understand the responsibility to educate our children on eSafety issues and believe it is essential for e-Safety guidance to be given to the children on a regular and meaningful basis. We do this by informal chats, conferencing, Q&A, in house CEOP training and the report it button, talking about the 3 c's (content, contact, conduct) and taking part in Safer Internet Days and likewise themed topics. At Fusion, we support children in being aware of current apps, fake news, the impact of online bullying, abusive/sexual/

terrorist and extremist material, teaching appropriate behaviours and critical thinking skills needed to enable them to remain both safe and legal when using the internet and related technologies. Children are aware of where to seek advice or help if they experience problems when using the internet and related technologies, i.e. parent/ carer, teacher/ trusted staff member and there are posters around the setting

Fusion endeavours to continually embed safety messages across Fusion through the use of e-safety posters; the **SMART** guidelines are visible to children and are explained to children wishing to use the internet.

SAFE- Keep safe by not giving out personal information, such as name, email, phone number, address or school name to people who you do not know.

MEETING- Never agree to meet anyone you have only met online unless your parent/career is with you.

ACCEPTING- Do not accept emails or instant messages, or open files, images or texts from people you do not know. They can contain viruses or nasty messages.

RELIABLE- Not all information found on the Internet is reliable and people you meet online will not always tell you the truth.

TELL- Tell a member of staff/ parents/carers/responsible adult if someone or something you encounter online makes you feel uncomfortable.

The Management of Fusion Childcare Services has ultimate responsibility to ensure that the policy and practices are embedded and monitored. The named e-Safety co-ordinators are **ABIGAIL WILKINS** (also CEOP Ambassador) and **REBECCA AKERS**. It is the responsibility of the co-ordinators to keep abreast of current issues and guidance through organisations such as CEOP, Childnet, Internet Matters, Parent Zone and Herts for Learning. Staff receive up to date information in staff briefings and as part of their induction and also training about apps and what they do/ are they safe/relevant. Staff are aware what to do in the event of misuse of technology and are aware of the relevant legislation when using the internet such as Data Protection.

Children's full names will not be published on Fusion's website and a check in the Registration Packs will be made to ensure that parental permission has been given for Social Media consent, in lines with the relevant policy. Only children who have been given consent for using electronic devices will be allowed to do so.

Fusion ensures that children are supervised when they have access to the Internet and must be in a visible area where staff can see the screens. Staff will preview any recommended sites before use, (where possible) and raw image searches are discouraged when working with children. **If children need assistance with their homework, which requires the Internet, then Fusion will preview the recommended websites and assist the child if necessary.** Fusion has an e-safety risk assessment in place, security is high and anti-virus software is uploaded and updated regularly and unacceptable sites are blocked. The iPads/tablets' browser histories are regularly checked to monitor which sites are being accessed. Where possible, apps that the children use are already downloaded on the devices.

Pre-School children would only have access to games/ apps in the presence of an adult and would be in place to support their development. Children may listen to music, dough disco etc and stories, all content has been checked by adults beforehand.

Filtering and Monitoring

The children at Fusion do not use computers and if we did they belong to the school so the Schools are responsible for Filtering and Monitoring software. As we rent the premises from the School and have access to devices, the Schools as our landlords are responsible for maintaining strict systems.

Although we do not use IT, if we did Management would be responsible for

- filtering and monitoring systems
- documenting decisions on what is blocked or allowed and why
- reviewing the effectiveness of your provision
- overseeing reports

We will consider risk factors when deciding on a system which will include, ages of children, the number of children in our setting, how often they have access to the system.

Misuse and Infringements- Complaints relating to e-Safety should be made to the eSafety co-ordinators or the Management of Fusion and any incidents will be logged.

Inappropriate material- All users are aware of the procedures for reporting accidental access to inappropriate materials. The breach must be immediately reported to the e-Safety co-ordinator.

Deliberate access or attempt to access inappropriate materials by any user or being shown by a third party, will lead to the incident being logged by the e-Safety co-ordinator and Safeguarding Procedures followed. Depending on the seriousness of the offence; investigation by the Manager, immediate suspension, possibly leading to dismissal and involvement of the police for very serious offences. Parents/carers will be asked to sign the Incident Record and the Manager will investigate how to prevent a reoccurrence of the incident and will develop training for staff.

Screen Use:

At **Fusion**, we recognise that technology forms part of children's everyday lives and can support learning when used appropriately. We are committed to ensuring that all children use technology safely, responsibly and in a way that promotes their wellbeing and development.

Any use of screens within the setting will be **limited, purposeful and carefully planned**, with a clear educational or developmental aim. Screens will never replace high-quality interactions between children and adults, active play, outdoor experiences, creative activities, storytelling or social interaction.

Staff will always supervise and co-engage with children when screens are used. Children will not be left to use digital devices independently, and all content will be checked in advance to

ensure it is age-appropriate, free from advertisements where possible, and suitable for the children's stage of development. Fast-paced, overstimulating or inappropriate content will not be used.

We have regard to the Department for Education's guidance on children's screen use. We will ensure that screen use for children aged two to five is kept to a minimum and forms only a small part of the child's overall day.

Children with SEND or English as an additional language may need a more tailored approach when it comes to screen use.

Technology may be used to help children learn about the digital world in an age-appropriate way, including how to use technology safely. Any use of digital devices for communication with parents or administration will comply with data protection requirements and will not reduce staff interaction with children. Personal mobile phones and electronic devices will be used in accordance with our safeguarding procedures.

At Fusion we ask ourselves:

- Is the screen use necessary? Are there other methods or resources you could use instead?
- What is the clear rationale for using a screen?
- How does it extend and enhance learning/development, rather than replace the educator's role?
- How can you ensure children are interacting in screen use and not passively using or watching it?
- How will you discuss the content with children?
- Is the content designed and appropriate for early years children?
- How can you introduce movement and physical activity?
- Are there any safeguarding risks around the device or content you're thinking of using? Has it been effectively checked?

Hertfordshire E Safety Adviser: 01438 844819 or wellbeing@hertsforlearning.co.uk.

Anti-Bullying Advisor: 01438 844767

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<i>Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2026): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Safeguarding policies and procedures [3.4, 3.6], Children's Screen use [3.94].</i>			
Signed and approved:	Fusion Childcare Services		