



Screen Use Policy

This policy sets out how Clapham & Clapham Park Montessori manages screen use with young children, in line with government guidance¹.

This policy applies to all staff, students, volunteers, agency staff, visitors and anyone else working with children at the nursery. It covers all screen-based devices used with or around children, including tablets and mobile phones.

Our aim is to make sure screen use does not replace or interfere with the experiences that young children need most, such as play, movement, sleep, real-world exploration, communication and responsive adult interaction. We recognise that high-quality educator-child interaction is central to children's learning and development.

Our approach to screen use

We recognise government advice that:

- Screen use by children under two years old should be avoided other than in exceptional circumstances such as a video call with parents and carers
- Screen use by children aged two to five should be limited to 1 hour a day, less if possible.

We are also aware that children may already use screens, and reach these limits, at home. For this reason, and because we believe that our Montessori environments should prioritise hands-on exploration of the real world, we do not use screens as part of children's routine learning, play or activities in our nurseries.

Staff will only use devices with screens, such as tablets, for the following purposes:

- writing observations on our online record-keeping platform (Transparent Classroom)
- taking photographs/videos, with parental consent, to upload to Transparent Classroom and share with parents, or for use on our website/social media platforms, and
- playing recorded music.

When using devices with screens for such purposes, staff are mindful of not showing the screen to children and will put the devices out of reach of children when they are not in use. Mobile phones may be used to contact parents and carers when necessary but, wherever possible, such calls will be made away from the children.

We ensure that the use of digital devices for recording observations and communicating with parents is proportionate and that staff members' main focus is on supporting and engaging with children.

¹ <https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/screen-use>

For safeguarding purposes, we keep the number of images or videos taken of children to a minimum, including for assessment purposes, and only share images or videos of children with their parents using secure systems and methods.

Children with SEND, communication needs or English as an additional language

Some children may benefit from screen-based assistive technology or digital resources that support communication, access, inclusion or well-being. Decisions will be made on an individual basis, using professional judgement and in partnership with parents, carers and relevant professionals.

In recognition of this, screen-based assistive technology used by these children is treated differently, when it is being used in order to meet their specific needs.

Safeguarding and use of digital devices

The use of digital devices (including those with screens) is managed in line with other relevant policies and procedures.

Any concerns about online safety, device use, images or children's welfare will be reported to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) without delay and recorded in line with our safeguarding procedures.

Working with parents and carers

We will share this policy with parents so that they understand how, why and when screens may be used.

Staff will offer practical, non-judgemental information where parents ask for support with screen use at home. We recognise that screens are part of everyday life and so will focus on positive messaging, such as shared viewing, limiting passive screen use, protecting sleep and mealtimes and offering screen-free alternatives. A helpful source of guidance for parents on children's use of screens can be found here: <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/screen-time-under-5s/>.

Staff training and responsibilities

Leaders will ensure that staff know how to respond to safeguarding or online safety concerns.

The designated safeguarding lead will monitor practice, review any concerns and ensure the policy remains consistent with current statutory requirements and guidance.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy and Procedures and the Policy on the Acceptable Use of Cameras, Mobile Phones and Other Electronic Devices.

Policy adopted:	Signed on behalf of the nursery:	Date for review:
September 2026	Ros Bowles and Lucía Gómez-Santana	September 2027