1.24 Use of Mobile Phones and Wearable Technology

Policy statement

We believe our staff at St Christopher's Playgroup should be completely attentive during their hours of working, to ensure all children in the playgroup receive good quality care and education. This is why personal mobile phones are not to be used during session times.

At St Christopher's Playgroup we also protect children from being photographed by any mobile device in line with the requirements set out in the revised early years foundation stage statutory framework. We ensure that all visitors, parents and staff do not use their mobile phones in the halls, foyer, outside play areas or toilet areas. If a call has to be made while children are present then this should be done in the kitchen with the hatch closed or off the premises.

All parents, staff and visitors are to be made aware of this policy when entering the building for the first time.

Procedures

- Staff mobile phones must be kept in the kitchen in their bags
- Mobile phones are prohibited in the toilets and nappy changing areas.
- Mobile phones can only be used in the kitchen, with the door shut and hatch closed or can be used off the premises.
- All parents are asked to keep their mobile phones in the kitchen where possible and are instructed not to use them outside of the kitchen.
- Any visitors to the setting are asked to leave their mobile phones in the designated basket in the corridor area away from the children
- Only the playgroup phone can be used around the children and this is a phone without a camera and without internet access.

- The playgroup telephone number should be given as an emergency contact number due to staff phones not being accessible during the session.
- Smart watches are to be left in the kitchen alongside mobile phones due to them having active imaging/recording capabilities and phone/text notifications which cause distraction to staff during working hours.
- Watches used for fitness reasons only may be worn.
- In the event of a phone being used as a medical device such as Type 1 diabetes these will be risk assessed on an individual basis.
- Fraudulent, harassing or obscene messages are prohibited.
- All cameras in the playgroup including those on staff mobile devices can be subject to scrutiny at any time by the safeguarding officer or manager if there are safeguarding concerns.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with our camera and photographs policy.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	St Christopher's Playgroup	name of setting
Held on	September 2026	(date)
Date to be reviewed	September 2027	(date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee	KJCookes	
Name of signatory	Karen Cookes	
Role of signatory (chair)	Manager	