**E-Safety Policy**

**1. Policy Statement**

At *Just for Kidz*, we are committed to safeguarding children and staff in their use of technology and the internet. We recognise the importance of educating children, staff, and parents about safe and responsible use of digital technologies to support learning and development. This policy outlines the procedures and practices in place to promote e-safety and reduce the risk of harm.

**2. Aims**

This policy aims to:

* Protect children from online risks and harmful digital content.
* Ensure staff understand their responsibilities when using technology.
* Promote a culture of digital safety, responsibility, and awareness.
* Support the safe use of technology as part of the curriculum and communication with parents.

**3. Legal and Statutory Framework**

This policy complies with:

* **The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework**
* **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)**
* **The Data Protection Act 2018 / UK GDPR**
* **Prevent Duty Guidance**

**4. Children’s Use of Technology**

* Children’s access to the internet is always supervised by a trained adult.
* Any use of digital devices (e.g. tablets, computers, interactive screens) is age-appropriate and focused on learning and development.
* Online content is carefully selected and pre-approved by staff to ensure it is educational and safe.
* Children are taught about staying safe online in a developmentally appropriate way (e.g. recognising "stranger danger" online, asking an adult for help).
* Children are never allowed to access social media platforms or messaging apps.

**5. Staff Use of Technology**

* Staff must follow the setting’s Acceptable Use of ICT agreement.
* Personal devices (e.g. mobile phones, smartwatches) must not be used to take photographs or videos of children.
* Staff may only use nursery-approved devices (such as tablets or cameras) to document children's learning and these must be securely stored.
* Staff are not permitted to engage in social media activity during working hours and must not post anything that could compromise the nursery, its staff, children, or families.
* All data and digital records must be handled in line with our **Data Protection Policy**.

**6. Photograph and Video Use**

* Photos and videos are only taken using designated nursery devices and are used solely for educational purposes, such as learning journals and observations.
* Parental consent is obtained for all image use on registration.
* Images are stored securely and never shared on public platforms or social media without explicit consent.

**7. Communication with Parents**

* Digital communication with parents (e.g. via online learning journals, email, or parent apps) is professional, secure, and in line with data protection guidelines.
* Staff do not share personal contact details with parents.
* Parents are reminded of their role in modelling good e-safety behaviour and supporting safe device use at home.

**8. E-Safety Training**

* All staff receive regular training on e-safety, including identifying online risks such as grooming, radicalisation, and exposure to inappropriate content.
* Staff are trained to report any online safety concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
* Parents are provided with guidance and resources to help them promote e-safety at home.

**9. Managing Online Risks**

We are aware of common risks including:

* Exposure to inappropriate content
* Online bullying or peer interaction issues
* Contact from unknown individuals
* Overuse or dependency on digital devices

Our setting mitigates these risks by:

* Restricting internet access to appropriate sites only
* Using password-protected systems
* Closely supervising children
* Regularly reviewing online safety practices

**10. Reporting Concerns**

* Any online safety concern (related to children or staff) must be reported to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** immediately.
* All concerns will be recorded, investigated, and, where necessary, reported to external agencies such as the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or police.

**11. Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are changes in legislation or guidance. The Nursery Manager and DSL are responsible for ensuring that procedures are followed and updated as needed.