



Mobile Phone and Social Networking (including Smart Watches)

At Stretton Lodge, we promote the safety and welfare of all children in our care. We believe our staff should be completely attentive during their hours of working to ensure all children in the nursery receive good quality care and education. To ensure the safety and well-being of children we do not allow staff to use personal mobile phones or smart watches (being used as a phone) during working hours. We can use mobile phones to provide a means of contact in certain circumstances, such as outings or during forest school sessions.

We require our staff to be responsible and professional in their use of social networking sites in relation to any connection to the nursery, nursery staff, parents or children. We ask parents and visitors to respect and adhere to our policy.

Staff must adhere to the following:

- Mobile phones are either turned off or on silent and not accessed during your working hours (Staff may give out nursery telephone numbers for emergency contact)
- Mobile phones can only be used on a designated break and then this must be away from the children
- Smart watches can be worn but Bluetooth must be turned off. The manager or deputy DSL will ensure this is adhered to.
- Mobile phones should be stored safely at all times during the hours of your working day – Day Nursery in staff cloakroom/Nursery in cloakroom and Pre-school in lockers
- During outings or forest school sessions staff may use a mobile phone for the purpose of emergency contact only. Photographs must not be taken of the children on any phones, either personal or nursery owned
- Staff must not post anything on to social networking sites such as Facebook/Twitter that could be construed to have any impact on the nursery's reputation or relate to the nursery or any children attending the nursery in any way
- Staff must not post anything on to social networking sites that could offend any other member of staff or parent using the nursery

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- If staff choose to allow parents to view their page on social networking sites this relationship must remain professional at all times
- If any of the above points are not followed then the member of staff involved will face disciplinary action, which could result in dismissal.

Parents' and visitors' use of mobile phones and social networking

Whilst we recognise that there may be emergency situations which necessitate the use of a mobile telephone, in order to ensure the safety and welfare of children in our care and share information about the child's day, parents and visitors are kindly asked to refrain from using their mobile telephones whilst in the nursery or when collecting or dropping off their children.

We promote the safety and welfare of all staff and children and therefore ask parents and visitors not to post publicly or privately information about any child on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. We ask all parents and visitors to follow this policy to ensure that information about children, images and information do not fall into the wrong hands.

Parents/visitors are invited to share any concerns regarding inappropriate use of social media through the official procedures (please see the Complaints and Compliments Policy and Procedure).