

Keresforth Primary School

EYFS Screen Time Policy  
Policy



## Contents

Rationale	Page 3
Key principles	Page 3
Screen time expectations	Page 3
Acceptable uses of screen time	Page 4
Unacceptable uses	Page 4
Safeguarding and online safety	Pages 4-5
Role of staff	Page 5
Partnership with parents	Page 5
Monitoring and review	Page 5

## Rationale

At Keresforth Primary School, we recognise that digital technology is part of children's everyday lives. However, in line with the EYFS Statutory Framework (2025), our priority is to ensure children develop through play, interaction, and real-world experiences.

This policy reflects current UK government guidance that screen use in early years should be:

- Limited
- Purposeful
- Developmentally appropriate
- Balanced with active learning and communication

## Key principles

At Keresforth Primary School, we ensure that:

- **Play is central to learning**  
Screen use never replaces hands-on, exploratory play.
- **Technology adds value**  
Screens are only used when they clearly enhance learning outcomes.
- **Adults lead learning**  
Screen use is always supervised and guided by staff.
- **Children's development comes first**  
Screen support—not hinder:
  - Communication and language
  - Personal, social and emotional development
  - Physical development

## Screen time expectations in school

We adopt the following guideline limits in line with national guidance:

- **FS1 (Nursery):**
  - Up to **15 minutes per day**  
*Lessons that regularly use a screen include maths & PSE.*
- **FS2 (Reception):**
  - Up to **30–60 minutes per day**, where appropriate.  
*Lessons that regularly use a screen include phonics, maths & PSE.*

We recognise that some pupils with additional needs may require more frequent or personalised access to screen-based resources. This use is purposeful and supports learning, communication, and emotional regulation, in line with individual support plans. There also may be times where it is necessary for the limits to be exceeded for the whole class- these will be infrequent and will adhere to acceptable uses of screen time.

## **Acceptable uses of screen time**

Screens may be used to support:

- **Communication & Language**
  - Listening to stories
  - Listening to nursery rhymes
- **Physical Development**
  - Yoga
  - Dough disco
- **Social & Emotional development**
  - PSE programme
  - Mindfulness/brain breaks
- **Literacy**
  - Essential Letters and Sounds phonics programme (FS2)
  - Phonics games
- **Mathematics**
  - Master the Curriculum (FS1)
  - Mastery of Number (FS2)
  - Maths games and videos
- **Understanding the World**
  - Exploring places, cultures, and nature (videos, photographs, maps)
- **Expressive Arts & Design**
  - Drawing apps
  - Creating digital content (photographs & videos)
  - Listening to and creating music

All use must be:

- Interactive
- Adult-supported
- Linked to learning intentions

## **Unacceptable uses**

Screens will not be used:

- As a substitute for supervision
- For passive watching for long periods
- As a replacement for lessons that can be delivered without a screen

## **Safeguarding and online safety**

We ensure that:

- All devices use filtered and monitored internet access
- Children are supervised at all times

- Only age-appropriate content is used
- Staff follow:
  - Mobile phone policy
  - Acceptable use policy
- Photos/videos follow parental consent procedures

### **Role of staff**

Staff will:

- Plan purposeful digital experiences
- Limit screen time carefully
- Sit with children during use (co-engagement)
- Ask questions and promote talk
- Model safe and appropriate use
- Be mindful of correct vocabulary being used in digital content
- Ensure screens do not dominate provision

### **Partnership with parents**

We work closely with families to promote healthy habits.

We encourage parents to:

- Limit screen time at home
- Avoid screens before bedtime
- Watch and talk about content together
- Prioritise play, conversation, and outdoor activity

### **Monitoring & review**

- Reviewed annually
- Updated in line with government guidance
- Monitored through:
  - Learning walks
  - Planning reviews
  - Safeguarding checks