



USE OF PHONES AND TECHNOLOGY

Glastonbury Forest School does not permit the use of phones or any other technology that can access the internet or take photography/ film or record audio to be brought into the session by any attendee. Staff are permitted to bring their phone into work but cannot access this during the session with exception of break and lunch time if they report to the Lead and leave the woodland site so are away from attendees. Staff can do this if they have to make an important telephone call. At all other times the Forest school staff should keep their phone in their bag and on silent. The only exception to this is if there are extenuating circumstances that mean the Forest School staff need to be able to answer their phone such as: a family emergency, for medical reasons, there has been an incident or accident at Forest School with the Leader and they are accessing their phone or technology to get help. Forest School staff should give the phone number of the forest school mobile and also Paddington Farm office to family if they feel they will need to get in touch during the session and outside of lunch time. Technology may sometimes be used by the Lead when learning about areas relevant to forest school for examples bird calls from the RSPB web page or Leaf Identification from the Woodland Trust. This is a rare occurrence and will be witnessed by secondary members of staff.

In summary:

- Attendees cannot bring in phones or other technology that can take photos or access the internet or record in anyway
- Staff should not access their phone during the session unless there are exceptional circumstances. Staff should take emergency calls outside of the forest school zone and away from attendees.

Use of phones and technology

- While technology is rarely used at Forest school, the staff understand that they have a wider responsibility towards attendees. Living in the technological age had opened a full range of criminality into the homes and lives of children and families, With the growing dependency on technology, gaming and social media, it is a responsibility of all adults surrounding a child to educate and support them with issues arising and report if required. The staff at Glastonbury forest school will speak openly on topics of safety online to ensure that the need for 'Safety' is normalised and children are aware. Staff have knowledge of the popular game and communication sites used by children and will engage in conversation around games they are playing with open curiosity and to discuss children's interests. This creates an environment where children feel safer to communicate if there are any concerns they are worried about anything that may be happening online. In line with key legislation and information provided by the NSPCC we keep an open environment in which children and young people are encouraged to ask any questions and participate in an ongoing conversation about the benefits and risks of the online world. Staff at forest school will:
 - promote the reduction of risk through providing information to parents. They will discuss with children how to reduce risk. Staff will respond to concerns sensitively and follow up on these
 - have the knowledge to discuss e-safety with attendees including: Content,
 - will provide advice on using social media
 - support and include parents and carers by sharing helpful advice and resources
 - review and update e-safety on an ongoing basis
 - If a disclosure of online abuse is made staff will follow the disclosure procedure, the parent will be informed and it will be reported to the police will be contacted. If this involved a looked after child, the social worker will be immediately contacted.

Staff members must not ever have an attendee's telephone number and communicate directly with them outside of Forest School using their phone or any online platform or Social media or any other format of connecting with them. This is considered unacceptable behaviour and is a serious safeguarding concern.