

EYFS Digital Technology and Screen Use Policy

Policy Rationale

At Silcoates, we recognise that young children in Pre-School (ages 3–4) and Reception (ages 4–5) are developing foundational social, communication, and physical skills. High-quality early education relies on hands-on exploration, physical play, language-rich conversations, and real-world relationships.

The Head of EYFS is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of this policy. All EYFS practitioners are responsible for ensuring that screen use remains aligned with the principles and requirements set out below.

Statutory Context & Alignment

This policy operates alongside the main School Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and complies directly with:

- **EYFS Statutory Framework (for Group and School-based Providers)**
- **DfE Guidance: Screen Use in Early Years Settings**
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)**
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children**

Screen Use Protocols for Pre-school & Reception

Screens are never used as a time-filler, reward, behaviour management tool, or passive background presence.

Strict Pedagogical Criteria for Classroom Screen Use

Whenever digital media or interactive technology is used in Pre-school or Reception, it must meet the following mandatory criteria:

1. **Adult Co-Engagement:** An EYFS practitioner must actively facilitate and converse with children during screen use. Passive viewing (e.g., watching a long movie during wet play) is prohibited.
2. **Slow-Paced & Calming Content:** Visuals must be simple and slow-paced. High-energy, rapid-cut, flashing, or sensory-overloading media is strictly excluded.
3. **Curriculum-Linked:** Screen use must directly support an EYFS Area of Learning (e.g., *Communication & Language, Understanding the World*).
4. **No Algorithms, Streaming Ads, or Autoplay:** Streaming platforms like YouTube must not be used on live algorithmic feeds. Content must be pre-screened and downloaded or accessed via ad-free, verified educational platforms.



5. **No AI Applications:** AI-driven interactive software, generative AI text/image tools, and AI-enabled toys are strictly excluded from direct child use in EYFS.

Classroom Environment & Health Rules

- **Interactive Whiteboards / Smart Screens:** Whiteboards in EYFS classrooms must be turned off or set to a static, blank screen when not actively being used for a group lesson.
- **Mealtime & Snack Time:** All screens must be off during snack time and lunch.
- **Quiet & Rest Areas:** Screens are strictly prohibited near quiet reading corners or rest areas.
- **SEND & Assistive Technology Exemption:** Screen time limits do not apply to screen-based Assistive Technology essential for supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), such as AAC communication devices.

The School is fully committed to ensuring that the application of this policy is non-discriminatory in line with the UK Equality Act (2010). Further details are available in the School’s Equal Opportunity Policy document.			
Reviewed by:	Mrs Tracy Escreet – Head of EYFS		
Date of last review:	September 2026	Date of next review:	June 2027

