

D-18 DIGITAL DEVICE, MEDIA, SOCIAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY USE

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy related to accessing and using social media networking platforms, applications use and all digital devices including, but not limited to, gaming consoles, desktop computers, laptops, mobile devices and smart watches. It also relates to the use of media content including television and movies. Children need opportunities to learn to use technology in a responsible way. Social media and associated technology is used to enhance our service and provide opportunities to the children to assist in their learning, development and entertainment.

Tanderra OOSH aims to ensure that children, educators and families are not compromised on any form of social networking platform, related website, video, sound or image recording.

PROCEDURE

a) Digital Devices

i. Children

- Children are permitted to use their own devices at the service if family permission has been sought via the service **Technology Agreement and Permission** form. The following conditions apply to children's use of personal technology devices while at the service:
 - ✓ Applications, saved material, photographs, games and other content must be appropriate and rated G and PG or equivalent
 - ✓ Educators may monitor the device and its use at all times and may choose to veto its use if necessary, removing the device from the child in cases of repeated misuse for the remainder of the session or day, and returning it to the authorized nominee at collection time
 - ✓ Children are responsible to take care of their own devices. The service will not be responsible for any damage or loss
 - ✓ Children's own devices must be used in accordance with the **Technology Use Procedure** which will be available for children, families and educators to view at the service, showing times and rules governing technology use
 - ✓ Children may not use messenger services or make phone calls without prior consent of an educator
 - ✓ Devices may not be used to take videos, pictures or sound recordings and no images or recordings of children may be uploaded to the internet
 - ✓ Children may not share their device with other children
 - ✓ Children may not use their device to connect to the internet

- ✓ If repeated misuse occurs, or extremely inappropriate content is accessed, the situation will be managed with reference to the behaviour management policy

- The service will maintain any technology devices, consoles and computers which may be designated for children's use with the appropriate restrictions and protections in place, thereby ensuring children's safety and wellbeing while using technology.
- Technology use at the service will be managed by a set of rules designed to support a balance between active play and quiet place, including when used for research and homework purposes. The rules will be set out in a prominent place where they can be seen by children, families and educators and will be reviewed on a regular basis.

ii. Families

- Parents and caregivers will talk to their children about the use of their digital devices and explain the consequences of misuse.
- Caregivers are responsible for insuring their child's device for loss, theft or damage. The service accepts no responsibility for the loss, damage or theft of any device or its accessories brought into the centre.
- Caregivers are responsible for ensuring all content on their child/children's devices are appropriate and compliant with regulations and copyright law.
- Parents and caregivers wishing to contact their child while at the centre must do so via the service staff and not via the children's device.

iii. Staff

- Educators may not use their personal devices (mobile phones etc) except when needed for work purposes such as when signing children in and out of the iCheckin, when phoning the centre or families to locate missing children etc. Educators may not use any internet connected device for personal reasons whilst employed to supervise children.
- Staff/educators are not to use their personal digital devices to take photos/videos/sound recordings while at the service unless prior approval has been granted by a supervisor. Photos/videos/sound recordings on personal devices must be deleted after their intended use.
- Use of devices by students on placement or volunteers requires prior service approval by the Nominated Supervisor.
- The use of children's images at the service by students required the approval of the relevant child's guardian. Images can only be used for assessment purposes and must be deleted from email and devices after their intended use.

b) Social Media

i. Children

- When a family has given permission for their child's image to be used by the service, the child shall have the final say as to whether they wish any particular image to be used. Children can decide if they do not wish any image to be used, even if permission has already been given by a parent.
- Children will not use any social media, video/photo uploading app whilst at the service.

ii. Families

- Families will be requested to sign a social media and privacy agreement regarding the use of their child's image (still and motion) by the service. This will include permission for use on social media, website, newsletter and promotional material, the programme and at the centre. If the family has not signed the agreement for use of their child's image on any or all the platforms, the child's image will not be used by the service or if part of a group photo, will be pixelated so as not to be recognizable.
- When participating on the service's social media platforms, caregivers will not post spam, advertising or commercial content without prior consent from the Nominated Supervisor or management.
- All content posted must meet relevant copyright guidelines.
- No social media posts or comments connected with the service will contain content that is abusive, profane or defamatory towards a person, entity, organization or belief.
- The service reserves the right to delete any content or comment that does not comply with service policy.
- Our social media platforms are not for the airing of grievances and complaints. Any individual wishing to lodge a complaint should follow the service's grievance procedure.
- Should a family member related to the service harass a staff member via a social networking website, management will conduct an inquiry into their actions and depending on the severity of the situation, face possible termination of their child's place at the service.

iii. Staff

- Only authorized staff or a member of management can add or amend information on the service's social media sites and website without prior approval.

- Educators may not access personal social networking sites via their mobile phone or any other device with internet connectivity while working directly with children.
- Except for the service’s own social media sites, unless by prior approval from management or Nominated Supervisor, no information about what happens at the service should be posted on a social networking website, nor should any photos taken at the service or on an excursion be put on a social networking forum. If a staff member puts photos of a child or children enrolled at the service on a social networking website, families will immediately be contacted and the staff member asked to remove it immediately. If necessary, the social networking website will be contacted to delete the photos. The staff member will face an inquiry into their actions.
- We respect the right of staff to participate in public and political debate in their private lives. In doing so, staff must behave in a way that does not call into question their capacity to act apolitically and impartially in their work.
- Our social media platforms are not for grievances and complaints. Staff wishing to lodge complaints must do so in accordance with the organisation’s grievance procedure.
- Staff should only interact with families on social media via the service’s social media account and not personal accounts. If a staff member has a relationship with a family associated with the service, this should be declared via the **Contact With Families Outside of the Service** folder. Commenting on personal accounts with families who are friends should always exclude information about the service, its activities and the children, families and staff within it.
- Staff may not interact with or become friends with children on any social media platform, whilst they are enrolled in the service.
- Should harassment of any kind take place on a social networking site, such as, but not limited to, sexual or verbal harassment, staff will face an inquiry into their actions.

CONSIDERATIONS

National Quality Standards

2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
4.2	Professionalism	Management, educators and staff work with mutual respect and collaboratively, and challenge and learn from each other, recognizing each other’s strengths and skills
5.1	Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child
2.2.3	Child Protection	Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of child	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained

5.2.2	Self-regulation	Each child is supported to regulated their own behaviour, respond appropriately to the behaviour of others and communicate effectively to resolve conflicts
6.2.3	Community engagement	The service builds relationships and engages with its community

Education and Care Service National Regulations 2011

R86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
R155	Interactions with children
R181	Confidentiality of records kept by approved provider

Related Policies / Forms

<p>D-12 Providing a child safe environment</p> <p>D-14 Interactions with children</p> <p>A-9 Management of complaints</p> <p>Tanderra Staff Code of Conduct</p> <p>Technology Agreement and Permission Form</p> <p>Work, Health and Safety policy (SNCC)</p> <p>Social and Traditional Media policy (SNCC)</p> <p>Complaints and Disputes Resolution policy and procedure (SNCC)</p> <p>Code of Ethics (SNCC)</p> <p>Human Resources Policies and Procedures (SNCC)</p>

ENDORSEMENT AND REVIEWS

Date	Action
08.09.2020	Approved by SNCC Board
04.09.2023	Last Review Date
September 2026	Next Review Date