



CHRIS'S CHILDCARE CENTRE

0 TO SCHOOL

TRADING AS CHRIS'S CHILDCARE LTD. 11894528

www.chrisschildcare.com

christines_childcare@hotmail.co.uk

01572 756461

07866756197

Policy: Safeguarding Children: Online, Mobile and Digital Technology Use

Data Protection

I understand that if I store personal details about other people on my computer, mobile phone, digital camera, or any other digital format, I must comply with data protection legislation and notify the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) as required. All personal information will be stored securely and used only for the purposes agreed with parents.

Mobile Phones and Digital Devices

As a registered childminder, I recognise the importance of being able to communicate with parents instantly. I use my landline phone when at home and my personal mobile phone.

Modern mobile phone technology includes internet access, wireless connections, camera, video, and sound recording, as well as sending and receiving messages. These devices are a valuable tool for communication and safeguarding, but they also carry potential risks. To protect the children in my care, I follow these procedures:

- All visitors during childminding hours are asked to leave their mobile phones and smart devices in a safe storage area or switch them off.
- Any assistants working with me will leave their personal phones or devices in a safe storage area.
- My phone and other devices are kept out of reach of children.
- Children may carry phones or smartwatches (from an age agreed with parents), but these devices must **not** be used for taking photos, accessing the internet, or messaging while in my care.



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- Parents are asked to use phones responsibly at collection and drop-off times to protect the privacy and safety of all children.

CCTV, Ring Doorbells, and Alexa Devices

- CCTV and Ring doorbell cameras are installed for security purposes. Recorded footage is stored securely and is accessible only to authorised personnel. Footage is not shared publicly and is deleted in line with data protection requirements.
- **Alexa-type devices and other smart home assistants** may be used as a learning tool for children under close supervision. To minimise risk:
 - Devices are configured to limit access to personal information.
 - Children are guided on appropriate use and do not have the ability to make purchases, send messages, or access unfiltered internet content.
 - Staff supervise all interactions, and any recordings or voice data are not stored beyond the activity.
 - The focus of use is educational, such as answering questions, storytelling, or supporting language development.

Taking Photos and Videos

The use of photos and videos to support observation, assessment, planning, and to provide a pictorial record for parents is part of my practice. To ensure the safety and privacy of everyone in my setting, I follow these procedures:

- Pictures are taken only by me, with written permission from parents. Parents specify how photos can be used: sharing with them, supporting observation and assessment, children's records, or marketing (with clear details of how and where).
- I avoid situations that could be misinterpreted or lead to allegations.



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- Pictures are either printed immediately and deleted from the device or securely transferred to a password-protected computer.
- I am registered with the ICO for Data Protection.
- Any stored pictures are deleted once a child leaves my setting.

Online Safety

I support children to stay safe online in age-appropriate ways, helping them understand:

- Not to share personal information online.
- How to communicate safely and respectfully.
- What to do if they see something online that upsets them or makes them uncomfortable.
- I also monitor children's use of technology, including educational apps or internet-enabled devices, to ensure that they are using them safely and responsibly.