Huby C of E Primary School

EYFS Screen Time Policy

2026-2027

Shining Together Through Curiosity, Connection and Courage.

Guided by Christian values, we inspire every child to let their light shine through a love of learning.

'Let your light shine for all to see' Matthew 5:16

Approved by:	**Full Governing Body**	**Date: November 2026**
Last reviewed on:	**December 2026**	
Next review due on or by: **.**	**November 2027**	

Rationale

At Huby CE Primary School, we recognise that digital technology is part of children's everyday lives. However, in line with the EYFS Statutory Framework (2026), 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 Huby CE Primary School, we will ensure that:

- Technology adds value - screens are only used when they clearly enhance learning outcomes.
- Play is central to learning - screen use never replaces hands-on, exploratory play
- Adults lead learning - screen use is always supervised and guided by staff.
- Children's development comes first - screen supports, not hinders, communication and language, personal, social and emotional development and physical development.

Screen time expectations in school

We adopt the following guideline limits in line with national guidance. New guidance from the DfE (2026) states that screen time for under 2's should be avoided, and for children aged 2-5 years it should be limited to 1 hour per day.

<u>Acceptable uses of screen time</u>

Screens may be used to support:

• Communication & Language

- Listening to stories
- Listening to nursery rhymes
- BBC EYFS Listening activities

• Physical Development

- Yoga
- Dough disco
- Music for squiggle while you wiggle

• Social & Emotional development

- Mindfulness/brain breaks
- End of the day home time procedure – to keep children safe in one space, whilst staff are seeing children out.

• Literacy

- Little Wandle Phonics Programme (mainly FS1)
- Phonics games

• Mathematics

- White Rose Programme
- Numberblocks episodes linked to the objective of the week
- Maths games and songs

• 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 (NB: with the exception of pre-planned PTA events such as movie night, where parental permission has been granted)

• As a replacement for lessons that can be delivered without a screen

Safeguarding and online safety

We will ensure that:

- 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

This policy will be reviewed annually, updated in line with government guidance and monitored through: learning walks, planning reviews and safeguarding checks