

## Use of Technology for Children Policy

Get Active Sports has a very a clear policy on the acceptable use of technology that is understood and adhered to by everyone: staff, children and parents. This policy has been put in place to safeguard our staff and children in our care from harm, bullying and any distress.

Staff, children, parents and all other visitors must not use their mobile phone – or any other device at any time, at any of our provisions. We ask that any electronic devices are not brought into our sessions. Older children attending our sessions will be asked to keep their phones switched off in their bags or will be kept in a locked box until the end of the session. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to electronic devices that have been brought into our provisions.

By following this policy, it ensures that:

- Our staff remain focused on the coaching quality of their sessions and encourage full child participation
- Everyone is protected from abuse, harm and bullying
- No photos are taken during the session
- Our staff are working in a transparent and open environment

We have high expectations of our staff, and all staff are aware that we operate a 'no phone' policy. The only member of staff allowed to use their phone is the Supervisor on site, for contact with our Head Office only. If parents/carers have agreed that photos can be taken for Marketing purposes, these photos will be taken on the registration tablet. Children are not permitted to use our registration tablet at any point.

On occasion, children will be permitted to use technology as part of their learning at our provisions, or for recreational use. The internet and online technology provide new opportunities for young people's learning and growth, but it can also expose them to new types of risks.

Get Active Sports are dedicated to keeping children and young people safe, and to teach them about online safety in and outside of school. Coaching staff will always monitor use of technology to ensure children are keeping safe during time at our provisions. Coaches will also have open and ongoing conversations with children about the benefits and dangers of the internet and create an environment where children can ask questions and raise concerns.

### Social Media

Social Networking is often essential for older children – it is often how they keep touch with and communicate with friends, family and school mates.

Personal mobiles mean that it is even more important that children and young people are aware of e-safety, and how this can present risks such as-

- Cyberbullying
- Online Grooming
- Emotional Abuse
- Online Abuse

Get Active Sports, Suite 4, Oakmede Place, Binfield, RG42 4JF  
RSR Sports Limited T/A as Get Active Sports is a company registered in England and Wales with:  
Company number: 08181499 VAT number: 142 2337 46.

As a part of day-to-day safety, these issues should be tackled both by the school in the classroom, and as part of open discussions in our provisions.

Any concerns founded by Get Active staff should be reported immediately to Head Office, and those involved should follow the policy for Reporting Concerns.

The following action will be taken:

In all cases of concern -

Contact Ashley Mitchell (Operations Manager or Head Office if not present) who is in charge of child protection, to discuss your concerns discreetly.

Record the details of your concern on paper so that a clear record of events leading to your suspicions is made and clearly sign the record.

In all cases of concern Ashley Mitchell will seek advice from the Local Authority.

Dependent on the advice provided from the Local Authority, Ashley Mitchell (or member of management team if not present) will then monitor the situation on an ongoing basis and escalate the problem if necessary.

All decisions made will be recorded.

In urgent situations (where the same day action is required e.g., physical abuse or an allegation of recent sexual abuse)

Ensure the young person is safe whilst you are taking action (e.g., seeking medical attention)

Report the situation to Ashley Mitchell immediately who will take up the issue with the Police or Social Services or the relevant referral authority.

Record the date and time of events leading to the report as soon as possible and clearly sign the record. Where possible ensure a witness is with you throughout this process and signs your record of events.

In all situations where a child appears to be suffering harm to either their emotional or physical health or development the Local Authority has a duty under the Children Act to carry out an assessment of the child's needs and an assessment if whether the child needs protection.

Ashley Mitchell (or member of management team if not present) who oversees Child Protection will refer all reportable or urgent child protection issues arising in a Get Active Sports session to the Local Social Services team or the Police Child Protection team if Social Services cannot be reached.

Last updated: January 2024

Due for review: January 2025