

Nichols School of Dance

Mobile Phones, Electronic Devices and Photography Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to safeguard all pupils by regulating the use of mobile phones and electronic devices, and by controlling the creation and use of images. The school recognises that unrestricted use of personal devices presents safeguarding risks, including:

- The inappropriate taking or sharing of images
- Breaches of privacy in changing environments
- Potential misuse of images or identification of children
- Disruption to a focused training environment

These risks are widely recognised in UK safeguarding guidance and must be managed through clear policy and practice.¹

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students
- Teaching staff and assistants
- Chaperones and licensed guardians
- Parents/carers
- Visiting professionals, photographers, and volunteers

It applies to all locations where the school operates, including:

- Studios
- Dressing rooms and changing areas
- Theatres and backstage environments including performances, examinations and events

3. Legal and Safeguarding Framework

This policy is informed by:

- UK safeguarding principles (Children Acts, Keeping Children Safe in Education)
- NSPCC guidance on photography and online safety
- Royal Academy of Dance standards requiring explicit consent for any photography or filming²

The school has a duty of care to protect the dignity, privacy, and welfare of pupils at all times.

¹ NSPCC, [UK Government](#). See policies already in place across UK dance schools. For example: [RAD](#); [English National Ballet](#).

² [RAD](#)

4. General Policy Statement

The school operates a **restricted mobile phone environment**, where device use is limited to circumstances that are appropriate, necessary, and safe.

Any exception to this policy is at the discretion of the Principal or Teaching Staff in the studio.

5. Use of Devices in Dressing Rooms and Changing Areas during Performance

- The use of mobile phones or any electronic device is strictly prohibited in all dressing rooms and changing areas
- This includes:
 - Mobile phones
 - Tablets (e.g. iPads)
 - Smartwatches with camera or recording capability
 - Any device capable of taking images, video, or audio

This rule is absolute and non-negotiable due to heightened safeguarding risks associated with changing spaces.

6. Photography, Filming, and Image Use

6.1 General Prohibition

- Photography or filming is strictly forbidden in dressing rooms and changing areas under all circumstances.

6.2 Authorised Photography in the Studio

- Only authorised members of staff or professionals may take photographs or videos.
- All content capture must:
 - Be approved in advance
 - Serve a legitimate educational, rehearsal, or promotional purpose
 - Take place in appropriate, non-sensitive environments

6.3 Consent Requirements

- No images of students will be taken, stored, or used without prior written consent from a parent/carer (for under 18s).
- Students may withdraw consent at any time, without penalty.

Failure to manage images safely can lead to safeguarding risks including misuse or identification of children.³

³ NSPCC

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6.5 Parents and Audience Members

- Parents/carers must not:
 - Photograph or film in backstage or changing areas
 - Share images online that include other children, without consent

7. Student Use of Mobile Phones

7.1 Younger Students

- Younger pupils of primary school age or below, are not expected to bring devices.

7.2 Older Students

Students of secondary school age may bring phones for essential communication; however:

- Phones must be:
 - Kept in bags at all times
 - Switched off or on silent
- Use is only permitted:
 - Outside of teaching time
 - In case of an emergency

Phones must never be used:

- During classes or rehearsals
- In dressing rooms or backstage environments

8. Staff, Chaperones, and Volunteers

- Staff must model appropriate behaviour at all times.
- Personal mobile phone use should be:
 - Limited
 - Never conducted in changing areas
- Staff must not:
 - Use personal devices to photograph pupils
 - Communicate with students via personal social media

All image capture must follow school procedures.

9. Breaches of Policy

Any breach of this policy will be treated as a safeguarding concern.

Possible actions include:

- Immediate confiscation of device
- Removal from class, rehearsal, or performance
- Informing parents/carers
- Referral to the Principal

Where necessary, incidents may be escalated to external authorities.

10. Reporting Concerns

- Any concerns, suspected breaches, or inappropriate use of devices must be reported immediately to the Principal.
- All reports will be handled in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.

11. Related Policies

This document should be read alongside the Health & Safety Policy of NSD.⁴

12. Monitoring and Review

This policy may be reviewed in response to changes in safeguarding guidance or legislation.

13. Statement of Commitment

The school is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and professional environment, in which all students can train with confidence, dignity, and focus.

We thank all students, parents, and staff for their co-operation in upholding these standards.

⁴ [Child Protection/Health & Safety Policy](#)