



Department  
for Education



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

# Early Years Screen Time and Usage

**Government call for evidence**

**Launch date 02 February 2026**

**Respond by 16 February 2026**

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# Introduction

This is an opportunity to provide evidence that will inform the development of new parental guidance on screen time for early years (0 to 5-year-old) children.

## Who this is for

We want to collect evidence from individuals and organisations with a range of knowledge and expertise. We anticipate that this will include, but not be limited to:

- pedagogy and education experts
- research organisations
- education charities

## Issue date

The call for evidence was issued on 2 February 2026.

## Enquiries

If your enquiry is related to the content of this call for evidence, you can contact the team at [eyscreenime.guidance@education.gov.uk](mailto:eyscreenime.guidance@education.gov.uk)

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the call for evidence process in general, you can contact the DfE Ministerial and Public Communications Division by email: [coordinator.consultations@education.gov.uk](mailto:coordinator.consultations@education.gov.uk), telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the [DfE Contact us page](#).

## Additional copies

Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from [DfE policy papers, consultations and calls for evidence](#).

## The response

The evidence gathered will be considered by the [Early years screen time advisory group](#), when producing new parental guidance on screen time and usage for early years (0-5 year-old) children.

# About this call for evidence

In 2019, the UK's Chief Medical Officers published advice for parents and carers on children's screen-based activities.

While the government continues to closely monitor the emerging evidence base on the causal relationship between screen time, social media and children's health, it has asked a [panel of experts](#) to review the currently available advice on early years screen time and produce new government guidance for parents.

This call for evidence is seeking information the panel should consider when producing the new guidance. We use the terms 'parents' and 'parenting' to encompass the wide range of family and caring dynamics that may take place for 0–5-year-olds.

In the following questions, the term 'impact' should be considered broadly; for example, including development, wellbeing, social and emotional impacts, physical and mental health, and safeguarding risks.

## Respond online

To help us analyse the responses please use the online system wherever possible. Visit [DfE consultations on GOV.UK](#) to submit your response.

## Other ways to respond

If for exceptional reasons, you are unable to use the online system, for example because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, you may request an alternative format of the form.

### By email

[Eyscreentime.guidance@education.gov.uk](mailto:Eyscreentime.guidance@education.gov.uk)

### By post

Early years screen time guidance team  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P3BT

## Deadline

The call for evidence closes at 11:59pm on 16 February 2026.

# Section 1- Respondent information

## About you

1. What is your name/the name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of?
2. Do you consent to the Department for Education contacting you via email about your response?

Please note: It is helpful to have your email address if we want to contact you about your answers to the questions in this call for evidence. You do not have to give your email address, and the information you provide will be considered whether or not you give your email address.

Yes/No

3. If you are happy to be contacted about your response, please provide your email address.
4. Would you like us to keep your response confidential?

## Confidentiality

Information provided in response to this call for evidence, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. If you want all, or any part, of a response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it confidential. If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department. The Department for Education will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. Evidence submitted will be shared with the [Early years screen time advisory group](#), Department of Health and Social Care and the Children's Commissioner's office, but personal information will not be shared without your express consent.

## Privacy Notice

The personal data (name, email address and any other identifying material) that you provide in response to this call for evidence is processed by the Department for Education as a data controller in accordance with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018, and your personal information will only be used for the purposes of this call for evidence. The Department for Education relies upon the lawful basis of article 6 (1)

(e) of the UK GDPR which process this personal data as part of its public task, which allows us to process personal data when this is necessary for conducting calls for evidence as part of our function. Your information will not be shared with third parties unless the law allows or requires it. The personal information will be retained for a period of 12 months following the closure of the consultation period, after which it will be securely destroyed. You can read more about what the Department for Education does when we ask for and hold your personal information in our personal information charter, which can be found here: [Personal information charter - Department for Education - GOV.UK](#)

Yes/No

5. If you would like us to keep your response confidential, please explain your reason for confidentiality.

## **Section 2- early years screen time and usage guidance for parents, questions**

6. What evidence should the panel consider about the positive and negative impacts of all types of digital screen use by 0–5-year-olds?
7. What evidence should the panel consider about the impact of different amounts of screen time, imposing empirical time limits, for 0–5-year-olds?
8. What evidence should the panel consider about the different types of digital screen use by 0–5-year-olds (e.g. TV, digital books and games, social media, messaging tools and online activities) and their impacts on children?
9. What evidence should the panel consider about the impact of the way that screens are used by 0–5-year-olds impact on child development, e.g. lone use of devices or joint use with the active involvement of an adult, sibling or other child?
10. What evidence should the panel consider about how different types of content (e.g. video calling, digital books, communication apps such as learning to sign, learning numbers and letters etc, video games, children’s videos, commercial adverts etc) impact 0–5-year-olds at different ages/stages of development?
11. What evidence should the panel consider about the relationship between parents’ or carers’ and wider family screen use and their children’s (0–5-year-olds) screen use?
12. What evidence should the panel consider about whether and how parental attitudes towards technology and wider parenting approaches can influence the impacts, both positive and negative, of digital screen use by 0–5-year-olds?
13. What evidence should the panel consider about interventions, programmes, or support that can help parents to support and manage their child’s (0–5-year-olds) screen use?
14. What evidence should the panel consider about parents’ and children’s (0–5-year-olds) views on screen time and managing children’s use of screens?



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