



## Online Safeguarding Policy

Name of Organisation: ENYP

The child protection lead is: Jane Cubitt

The child protection deputy lead is: Danny Doran-Smith

### Introduction

This policy provides guidance on the procedures that will support and underpin the use of social networking and other online services within ENYP. It is important that all staff, volunteers, Trustees, or anyone working on behalf of the organisation are aware of this policy and agree to the following terms.

### Terms

- To protect all children and young people attending ENYP and who make use of technology whilst they're within our care.
- To provide staff and volunteers with policy and procedure information regarding e-safety.
- To ensure ENYP is operating in line with our values and within the law regarding how the organisation uses information technology.

This policy sits alongside the Safeguarding Children policy which is operated by ENYP. The policy recognises that the welfare of all children is paramount and that *all* children and young people; regardless of ability or culture, have equal rights of protection. We have a duty of care when they are in our charge and will do everything we can to provide a safe and caring environment whilst they attend our activities.

ENYP has the following online presence;

- A website – [www.enyp.org.uk](http://www.enyp.org.uk)
- A facebook group
- A twitter page



As part of our child protection and safeguarding procedures, staff and volunteers of ENYP are asked to be aware of the online risks and to protect their own privacy as well as those in our care.

Bearing these safeguarding measures in mind, our practice will include (but is not limited to the following), and will be regularly updated in line with legislation:

- No young person will be mentioned by name in any online communication.
- Pictures may only be used with prior consent from a young person's parent/carer using the consent form which is completed prior to a young person joining an activity.
- Communication made on online sites is only to be made by a staff member, or a key volunteer (and this permission is given by the Director). The website is updated by the ENYP Manager/Senior Youth Worker.
- Our facebook group operates as a closed group, admins monitor the site, and high privacy settings are in place to protect the welfare of those in our care. Privacy settings and monitoring of these settings are undertaken by ENYP Director. Admins of the site monitor who can be accepted as friends. No one under the age of 13 is accepted into this group, and young people or adults are only accepted if they attend, or have children that attend activities. It is not a generic group, and its purpose is for communication/publicity of events/activities. When children/young people below the minimum age have requested to 'join' the group, parents/carers will be notified.
- Staff and volunteers will not message young people on social media sites.
- Email addresses of parents/carers are taken as part of the consent form process, and staff will utilise this method if they need to communicate messages/news online. (ENYP's preference is always communication in person.)
- Staff and volunteers are aware of the need to protect their privacy online. Staff and volunteers are encouraged to carefully consider who they give access to their personal information online. All staff and volunteers should ensure that a clear differentiation between their personal and professional profiles.

With emerging technologies there is a potential for misuse, and risks associated with user interactive services include; cyberbullying, grooming and abuse by online predators, identity theft and exposure to inappropriate content including self-harm, racist, hate and adult pornography. Most children and young people use the internet positively, however sometimes they may behave in ways which place them at risk. These risks can include, but are not limited to;

- Bullying by peers and people they consider 'friends'
- Posting personal information that can identify and locate a child offline
- Sexual grooming, luring, exploitation and abuse contact with strangers
- Exposure to inappropriate content



- Exposure to racist or hate material
- Encouragement of violent behaviour
- Glorifying activities such as drug taking or excessive drinking
- Leaving and running away from home as a result of contacts made online

ENYP will informally educate young people about the risks online, how to ensure their safety and privacy, and will refer to other online support groups which may include:

- Beatbullying – empowers power to understand, recognise and say no to bullying
- Cybermentors – provides support for young people aged between 11-16
- Childnet – non-profit organisations working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children
- Childline – help and advice about a wide range of issues, talk to a counsellor online, send Childline an email or post on the message boards
- Kidscape – cyber bullying advice for children and teens.

### **Safeguarding reporting**

In line with our Safeguarding Children Policy staff and volunteers will follow the same disclosure process in handling any safeguarding concerns or reporting any breaches of terms. These disclosures will be handled by the Child Protection leads (named above).

In addition, concerns arising online will also be reported as necessary to:

- Internet Watch Foundation or to the Police in relation to illegal sexual child abuse images
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) in relation to suspicious behaviour towards children and young people in an online environment
- Law enforcement agencies

### **Training**

ENYP will update staff and volunteers policy at training sessions.

### **Questions**



Questions relating to this policy or the changing nature of online media and how best to respond should be directed to ENYP's Director (Danny Doran-Smith) or the Child Protection Leads (Jane Cubitt and Danny Doran-Smith).

### **Review**

This policy is subject to annual review in line with safeguarding practices and legislation.

### **References**

[www.safenetwork.org.uk](http://www.safenetwork.org.uk)

NSPCC