



THE PLACE

Online Safeguarding Policy

We believe that children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind. Children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are always kept safe.

We recognise that the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges. We have a duty to ensure that all children, young people, and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online.

We have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using The Place Youth Club's network and devices. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults. We will support and encourage the young people using our service to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others.

We will be encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online.

We will develop a clear and robust procedure to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child/young person.

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation.
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders, and our organisation as a whole into account.
- reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

If we continue to have concerns, we will then pass our concerns onto the Personnel Manager who would then deal with the issue.

Further action will be taken depending on the breach as to whether the police need to be involved.

Signed by all workers: