The Inspire Group
Online Safety Policy Statement
2026/27

Online Safety Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy statement

The Inspire Group works with children, young people and families as part of its activities. The Inspire Group is committed to devising and implementing policies so that everyone in sport accepts their responsibilities to safeguard children and young people from harm and abuse. This means to follow procedures to protect children and report any concerns about their welfare to appropriate authorities. This obligation extends to the online safety that we need to ensure for all of the children, young people, adults and staff.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile
- devices
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.
- working in partnership with parents and children is essential for the protection of children/young people.

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in The Inspire Group's activities

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 kept safe at all times.

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 [name of organisation]'s network and devices
- 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
- 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.

We will seek to children and young people safe by;

- appointing an online safety coordinator [this may or may not be the same person as your nominated child protection lead]
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults
- supporting and encouraging 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
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- developing an online safety agreement for use with young people and their parents or carers
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child or young person
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that user names, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

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

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)
- providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying or 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.

Incident Details

- The definition of an online incident is: "Any incident that occurs and involves any person (student or adult) where the use of technology (equipment and/or networks) enables or facilitates inappropriate behaviour and harm and/or distress is caused to another person or the reputation of the The Inspire Group. This may include the use of social media, forums, blogs, open and closed groups, digital images, messages, or any other means."

- The most likely areas of risk to students are:
    - Exposure to illegal inappropriate or harmful material;
    - Subject to harmful online interactions with other users;
    - The individual's personal online risky behaviour that then leads to harm.
    - Online 'commerce' (online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing, or financial scams)

- The Inspire Group has a responsibility for ensuring that the resources are available to promote the safe use of technology and to promote understanding and awareness of the risks attached to the use of digital technology.

- We seek to promote the use of technology and connectivity to ensure that the students are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to perform to the best of their ability both during their time at The Inspire Group and also in their future in their chosen careers and workplaces.

- Staff and students must be able to use digital technology appropriately and safely and understand the risks related to their activity. Students will receive online safety education as soon as they start using digital technology and this will be continually reinforced and monitored as students' progress through their time with us.

- The Inspire Group actively encourages a proactive approach to new and emerging technologies and threats to mitigate the risk of harm to everybody. We seek to

promote a ‘cyber aware’ culture that ensures everybody at The Inspire Group takes part in and continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of online behaviour and in particular, how to prevent harm through continual learning resources, research, and encouragement from all teachers.

Related policies and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- Safeguarding children & child protection policy
- procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person’s wellbeing
- dealing with allegations of abuse made against a child or young person
- managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- code of conduct for staff and volunteers & Inspire Team Handbook
- anti-bullying policy and procedures
- photography and image sharing guidance.

Designated Safeguarding Lead for The Inspire Group
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Declaration
On behalf of The Inspire Group we, the undersigned, will oversee the implementation of the online safety policy and take all necessary steps to ensure it is adhered to.



Julie Clarke
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Josh Edwards
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Joe Clarke
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

POLICY DATE OF REVIEW **02/09/2026**
NEXT SCHEDULED REVEIW **02/09/2027**