

## Online Safety

### Introduction

At Worcester Warriors Community Foundation we believe children, young people and vulnerable adults should never experience abuse of any kind. They 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 the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges. We have a duty to ensure all children, young people and adults involved in the Foundation are protected from potential harm online. We have a responsibility to help keep our participants safe online, whether or not they are using the Foundation's network and devices.

All our participants 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 our participants, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare and in helping our participants to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of our participants 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, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

### Scope

This policy statement applies to anyone involved in the Foundation's activities including all staff, volunteers and participants.

### Legal framework and guidance

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:

- [online abuse](#)

- bullying
- child protection

## Related policies and procedures

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

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Anti-Bullying
- Taking, Storing and Sharing Images of Participants

### Policy review

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually. The responsibility of reviewing and maintaining this policy is Worcester Warriors Community Foundation's CEO.

Start date of policy:	August 2021
Last review date:	August 2021
Date of next review:	July 2022

## 1. Keeping our participants safe

We will seek to keep our participants safe by:

- appointing an online safety coordinator
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our Worcester Warriors Community Foundation Code of Conduct and Staff Conduct description within our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy.
- supporting and encouraging the participants 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 our participants
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a participant
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that usernames, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- ensuring personal information about the adults and participants who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate

- ensuring that images of participants 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 Foundation.

## **2. Responding to online abuse**

If online abuse occurs, we will respond 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/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 any problems have been resolved in the long term.