

# Online Policy Statement

May 2026



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ENGLAND**



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## The purpose of this policy statement

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Activate Performing Arts Ltd works with children, families as part of its performing arts activities.

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.

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in Activate Performing Arts programmes.

## Legal framework

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

- [NSPCC guidance on online abuse, bullying and child protection](#)
- [NSPCC example online safety policy statements and agreements](#)
- [NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit \(CPSU\) guidelines on safe digital engagement and social media use](#)

### **We believe that:**

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- Children and young people 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 and young people 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 Activate'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.

## Understanding online risks

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We acknowledge the wide range of online risks identified by NSPCC, including:

- Cyberbullying and harassment
- Grooming and online exploitation
- Exposure to harmful or inappropriate content
- Harmful sexual behaviour online
- Risks linked to livestreaming, online gaming, scams and digital fraud.

Staff and volunteers must remain informed about emerging risks and new technologies used by children and young people.

## Action we will take

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### **We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:**

- 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
- Providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our Safeguarding Policy guidelines
- 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
- Publishing this document on our website for young people and their parents/carers who we work with
- 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/young person
- 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 children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- Ensuring that identifiable 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
- We give adequate 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.

### **Staff & Volunteers must:**

- Use only approved organisational accounts for communicating with children
- Avoid one-to-one private messaging
- Follow video conferencing guidance from NSPCC/CPSU, including supervised sessions, approved platforms and clear boundaries
- Uphold professional behaviour standards online at all times.

### **Managing online presence and social media:**

Our online presence (website and social media accounts) will follow these NSPCC/CPSU aligned principles:

- Follow video conferencing guidance from NSPCC/CPSU, including supervised sessions, approved platforms and clear boundaries
- Uphold professional behaviour standards online at all times
- Social media accounts will be password protected with at least two authorised staff administrators
- Only designated staff may post on official channels
- Content will be monitored regularly, and inappropriate material removed promptly
- No private messaging between staff accounts and children
- All platforms will be risk assessed before being used with children.

### **Photography, filming and digital images:**

In accordance with NSPCC informed practice, we will:

- Obtain written consent before taking or using identifiable image
- Store images securely and delete them when no longer needed
- Provide clear information to children and parents/carers on how images may be used.



### **If online safety 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 who will be working with children, young people 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 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.

### **Related policies and procedures**

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

- Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers.

### **Contact details**

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#### **Designated Safeguarding Lead:**

Kate Wood, Executive & Artistic Director

Phone/email: [kate@activateperformingarts.org.uk](mailto:kate@activateperformingarts.org.uk) / 01305 260954

#### **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:**

Jen Walke-Myles, Executive Producer

Phone/ email: [jen@activateperformingarts.org.uk](mailto:jen@activateperformingarts.org.uk) / 01305 260954

#### **NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000



We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed 26th May 2026.

