Online Safety Statement

Version number	Date	Author	Purpose
01	02.11.22	Amanda Casson Webb	Minimise risks, define expectations

Purpose and scope
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This statement applies to all RAD colleagues (including trustees and volunteers) and anyone involved with RAD's services.

The safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount when using the internet, social media or mobile devices. The purpose of this Online Safety Statement is to:

- Outline the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- Ensure that we operate in line with our organisational values, and within the law in terms of how we use online devices

Legal framework

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This statement has been written based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children and vulnerable adults in England. Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available at:

- Online bullying and abuse
- Child protection
- UK Safer Internet Centre
- NSPCC guidance: protecting children from bullying and cyberbullying
- NSPCC guidance: online abuse

We believe that:

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- No-one should ever experience abuse of any kind
- Everyone should be able to use the internet for education and personal development and safeguards must be in place to ensure that people can stay safe online
- Children can be particularly vulnerable to online abuse and exploitation

We recognise that:

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- 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 and abuse online
- We have a responsibility to help keep children, young people and vulnerable adults

safe online, regardless of whether or not they are using RAD's network and devices

- We recognise our responsibility in terms of the need to reduce the possibility of harmful material/ abuse to protect vulnerable adults
- 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 and adults, 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 keep children and young people safe by:

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- Appointing an Online Safety Coordinator
- Providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our Social Media Policy
- Supporting and encouraging the young people using our services 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 (online safety will be covered in Level 2 safeguarding training. This is taken every two years with an online refresher in-between. RAD's Safeguarding Lead will be involved in reviews/ state how we will keep working practices up to date in line with current legislation)
- Examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within RAD

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

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- Having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)
- Providing support and training for all colleagues on dealing with all forms of abuse and discrimination, including bullying or cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, financial/ material abuse
- Making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account
- With the Safeguarding Lead, 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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- Computer Use Policy

- Disciplinary Policy
- Safeguarding Adults Policy
- Safeguarding Adults Procedures
- Safeguarding Children Policy
- Safeguarding Children Procedures
- Social Media Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct