

E-Safety Policy

Our Beliefs:

Challenge Wales has a duty in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people engaging in our projects, under the Children Act 2004.

As technology increasingly permeates into every aspect of a child's life from an ever younger age, Challenge Wales is committed to work in a way that protects children and young people in the online world.

Challenge Wales recognises the internet and other digital technologies provide a vast opportunity for children and young people to learn, socialise and play, but that the need to keep them safe from inappropriate materials and abuse online is of vital importance.

This policy applies to all Challenge Wales staff, trustees and volunteers.

Definitions: for the purpose of this policy 'Digital Technologies' refer to the use of not only the internet but all forms of media including mobile phones, laptops and computers, tablets, gaming consoles and bluetooth devices.

Aim:

This policy is aimed at outlining a uniform approach to e-safety, that protects children and young people who may access digital technologies whilst in the care of Challenge Wales projects. Challenge Wales aims to ensure that as an organisation we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how digital technologies should be used, and is committed to putting into place actions with the aim of ensuring that children and young people engaging in our projects will be protected.

This policy is also made accessible to all Challenge Wales' partner organisations, parents, guardians and young people.

Practical Steps - Safety on projects:

Where our projects and activities may provide access opportunities to digital technologies, we will seek to keep all children and young people safe by:

- Providing staff, trustees and volunteers with relevant and up to date e-safety awareness training as part of our overall safeguarding training programme.
- Having a range of procedures that provide clear and specific direction for staff, trustees and volunteers on appropriate use of digital technologies.
- Having a robust reporting procedure for concerns and disclosures of digital technology issues that may arise.
- Ensuring supervision of children and young people when using digital technologies on project activities.
- Where appropriate provide awareness raising opportunities for children and young people on using digital technologies safely.
- Making use of our procedures by dealing firmly, fairly and decisively with any examples of inappropriate use of digital technologies such as illegal use, cyberbullying, grooming and the perpetrating of abuse.
- Including the risk-assessing of digital technologies as part of project activity planning.

Bullying:

Challenge Wales takes all aspects of bullying very seriously and under no circumstance will such behaviour be tolerated. Where there is evidence of cyberbullying by children and young people on



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any Challenge Wales project, the perpetrator will be spoken to and parent/carer will be informed. Where appropriate education work or sanctions may be put in place.

Equality:

All children and young people have the right to be safeguarded from abuse. Challenge Wales recognises that some children and young people may face additional vulnerabilities and barriers. This may be due to personal characteristics such as race, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social background or culture.

Challenge Wales is aware that these characteristics may mean that these children and young people can be at greater risk of abuse because of factors such as prejudice, discrimination, communication barriers and the reduced ability to resist or report abuse.

Safeguarding Children and Young People with Digital Technologies Procedures:

Where a child or young person is a victim of misuse of digital technology that may lead to significant harm, either by an external agent or by Challenge Wales volunteers or staff, the incident should be documented and reported immediately ensuring that the Challenge Wales safeguarding procedures are adhered to.

Where specialist involvement or support is needed then a Challenge Wales representative should make use of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) advice centre (www.ceop.police.uk) and Report Abuse tools. Where appropriate the child or young person should be involved in this process.

Where a child or young person has shown intentional misuse of digital technology within Challenge Wales projects the individual involved will be spoken to by a Challenge Wales representative and action taken as appropriate, this may include speaking to the parent/carer, providing information and education work or putting sanctions in place.

Where there has been a serious breach, such as intentional accessing of illegal content or use of exploitative and grooming behaviours, then Challenge Wales may involve external organisations such as Social Services or the police.

Legal Framework:

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

Further Guidance:

NSPCC 'Are they safe?'

CEOP 'Thinkuknow'

Childline: 0800 1111

This policy will be regularly monitored and reviewed on an annual basis.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Vicky Williams, Trustee

Date: 17/02/2023



Helen Phillips, Chair of Board of Trustees,

Date: 17/02/2023



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