

Gympanzees eSafety Policy.

Aim:

Gympanzees promotes the highest standards of safeguarding practices in all our dealings with children, young people and their families/carers. We will adhere to this policy in all aspects of our work when anyone in Gympanzees accesses any form of digital or electronic communication. This includes the internet, mobile phones, games, photography and video. This policy should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding Policy and our Photography Policy.

Background.

Recent advances of the internet, mobile phones and other electronic technology has made access to information and communication increasingly easy for everyone. It is estimated that 98% of young people have access the internet away from school. In addition to research for homework, the majority use social networking sites, play games and download music and videos.

Recent CEOP (Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre) research with 6,000 young people aged 11-16 years found that 25% had met a new “friend” from the internet for real. Of these young people

- 25% had met that person alone,
- 2% had taken a trusted adult,
- the remainder had taken a friend of their own age.

Government guidance is clear that all organisations working with children, young people, families, parents and carers have responsibilities. It is important to remember that children and young people can also abuse and that such incidents fall into the remit of this policy.

“All agencies providing services to children have a duty to understand eSafety issues, recognising their role in helping children stay safe online while also supporting adults who care for children” (Safeguarding Children in a Digital World)

eSafety Code of conduct.

Gympanzees expects everyone in our organisation to agree and sign this code of conduct:

They will:

1. use the internet and other forms of communication in a sensible and polite way.
2. All Gympanzees IT equipment will be in a public place
3. only access websites, send messages or access and use other resources that will not hurt or upset anybody
4. only use personal information or take photographs of other people in exceptional circumstances after discussion and permission from the eSafety lead, adhering to the Photography and Confidentiality policies

5. report any concerns to the lead or deputy person for eSafety immediately
6. be clear that they cannot always maintain confidentiality if there is a concern about the welfare of a child or young person

What are eSafety risks?

There are many potential risks to children and young people including:

- accessing age inappropriate or illegal websites
- receiving unwanted or upsetting text or e-mail messages or images
- being “groomed” by an adult with a view to meeting the child or young person for their own illegal purposes including sex, drugs, or crime
- viewing or receiving socially unacceptable material such as inciting hatred or violence
- sending bullying messages or posting malicious details about others
- sending sexual texts, images and videos
- ignoring copyright law by downloading music, video or even homework cheat material

“Grooming” is an offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 if:

- the offender has either met or communicated with the child on 2 previous occasions, and;
- the offender must then either have met the child or travelled with the intention of meeting the child, and;
- at the time the offender had the intention of committing a relevant sexual offence.

Behaviour that might cause concern.

A child or young person who:

- is becoming secretive about where they are going to or who they are meeting
- will not let you see what they are accessing on-line,
- using a webcam in a closed area, away from other people
- accessing the web or using a mobile or for long periods and at all hours
- clears the computer history every time they use it
- receives unexpected money or gifts from people you don't know

An adult who:

- befriends a child/children on the internet or by text messaging

- has links to children on their Facebook or other social network site, especially if they work in a position of trust such as a sports coach or youth worker
- is secretive about what they are doing and who they are meeting

What to do if concerned.

If you have any concerns speak to the lead, or deputy person for eSafety immediately. They will take the following action/s:

If the concern is about:

- a child being in imminent danger, **ALWAYS DIAL 999 FOR THE POLICE.**
- the welfare of a child, they will ring the local children's social care services. First Response 0117 903 6444 or Out of Hours 01454 615 165
- a known person's sexual behaviour or intentions, ring the local police
- a person who has a "duty of care" towards children and young people in the organisation, ring the local children's social care services.
- an unknown person's sexual behaviour or intentions, report at www.ceop.gov.uk (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre)
- harmful content, including child sexual abuse images or incitement to racial hatred content contact: www.iwf.org.uk
- viruses or technical advice, get advice from your provider
- mobile problems, contact the phone service provider

REMEMBER: -

1. DO NOT DELAY.
2. DO NOT INVESTIGATE.
3. SEEK ADVICE FROM THE LEAD OR DEPUTY PERSON FOR eSAFETY
4. MAKE CAREFUL RECORDING OF ANYTHING YOU OBSERVE OR ARE TOLD

Summary.

1. For immediate danger/crime - Dial 999
2. For concern about child sexual abuse images (worldwide) or racial content (UK hosted) - contact Internet Watch Foundation www.iwf.org.uk
3. For an unknown person communicating with a child for sexual reasons - contact CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) www.ceop.police.uk
4. For a concern about a known person, non-sexual harassment or other potential crime - Contact local police Dial 101

Contact information.

Gympanzees eSafety Lead: Elizabeth Scholey 07773 132748

Gympanzees eSafety Deputy: Stephanie Wheen 07773 553112

Local Safeguarding Board = Bristol Children's Safeguarding Board.

Tel: First Response 0117 903 6444

Out of Hours 01454 615165

NSPCC Tel: 0800 800 5000

For other help and advice:

www.childline.org.uk Tel: 0800 1111

www.there4me.com

www.thinkuknow.co.uk.