

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults Policy



Contents

Context	4
Policy Statement	5
Equal Opportunities Statement	6
Policy Aim	7
Safeguarding Personnel	7
Lead and Deputy for Safeguarding	7
Line of accountability for safeguarding	8
Senior for Safeguarding	8
Why do we need a Safeguarding Policy?	9
Definitions	9
Definition of a child/young person	9
Definition of an adult at risk	10
Related Policies	10
Data Protection	10
Confidentiality	10
Whistleblowing	11
Information Sharing	11
Safer Recruitment	11
Induction and Training	12
Working Practices	13
Consent	13
Staff Ratios to Children, Young People and Adults at Risk	14
Lone and One to One Working	14
Young People who work in our Organisation	14
Codes of Conduct	14
Recognising Abuse in Children Young People and Adults at Risk	15



Handling Disclosures	16
Responding to Concerns	17
Safeguarding Referral Flowchart	20
Record Keeping	20
Handling Allegations / Dealing with Complaints / Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures	20
Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Harassment	21
Online Safety	21
Why do we need to include Online Safety?	21
Online Safety Code of Conduct:	21
What are the Risks?	22
What else might be of concern?	22
Social Media	23
What do I do if I am concerned?	23
Online Referral Flowchart – Child and Adult	24
Minimising the Risks	24
Safeguarding Practical Guidance	24
Photography & Filming Guidance	24
Transport	25
Activities, Events and Visiting Speakers/Activity Leaders	25
The Late Pick Up of a Child, Young Person or Adult at Risk	26
Child, Young Person or Adult goes Missing	26
First Aid	27
Buildings and Venues	28
Ethical fundraising	29
Policy Date	30



Context

FIRST UK is a tech education charity (founded in 2018) using robots, industry mentors and competitions to make STEM less intimidating, and more inclusive - empowering young people to make informed choices about their future.

We believe young people deserve to be inspired by STEM like they might by a sporting event or music festival. We work with 12 to 18-year-olds - with a particular focus on those from underserved backgrounds, girls and underrepresented groups - bringing them together (typically as an after-school club) in diverse teams with roles linked to real-world careers to design and build a robot and over the course of two academic terms to take on a global challenge.

Through student-directed expeditionary learning, supported by role models from industry, young people learn to think, operate, and collaborate like innovators before competing in local, national and international tournaments to earn industry-judged awards and formal accreditation.

We have supporting gateway products (such as a curriculum-mapped robotics simulator and coding platform) and are developing a holiday club provision to improve access.

- FIRST UK is a charity registered in England and Wales (1178433)
- Our registered address is 7 Bell Yard, London WC2A 7JR
- We work only in the UK
- The charity targets its support to DfE and OFSTED registered educational establishments, nationally recognised youth organisations with a safeguarding policy and appropriate governance structures
- We support young people aged 12 to 18
- We are regulated by the [Charity Commission](#) where our charitable objects are:



“For the public benefit to advance the education of school-aged children in STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) subjects amongst schools through the provision of structured preparation and learning for robotics competitions.”

- We employ a small head office staff (currently 8 at the time of this policy)
- We utilise volunteers as mentors to teams (where DBS checked and trained), and as event staff – these volunteers are typically drawn from our industry partners and other professional volunteering organisations including STEM Ambassadors. We currently have around 400 volunteers registered to our database
- The charity has relationships with around 300 schools and youth organisations and impacts around 3,000 young people annually – with targets to grow this significantly over the coming years

Policy Statement

We recognise that the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk, is paramount and that all have equal rights of protection. We have a duty of care when they are in our charge, and we will do everything we can to provide a safe and caring environment whilst they attend our activities. Additionally, no one should come to any harm through their contact with our organisation and, as part of that commitment, we do everything we can to ensure everyone feels safe and protected from any form of harm, abuse and neglect, regardless of their role



Equal Opportunities Statement

We recognise that anyone can become subject to discrimination, harassment or victimisation because of:

- age
- culture
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

Comments and actions that contribute to discrimination, harassment or victimisation are not acceptable and will be challenged. Such incidents will be recorded and shared with parents and carers, and the relevant agencies when necessary and appropriate.

We will:

- treat everyone with respect and celebrate their achievements
- carefully recruit and select all staff whether paid or unpaid
- respond to concerns and allegations appropriately

When there are concerns about the welfare of any child, young person or adult at risk, all responsible adults in our organisation are expected to share those concerns, without delay, with the Lead for Safeguarding (or the Deputy, if the Lead is unavailable).

Our policy is set out by our CEO and approved by the Board of Trustees. It is reviewed and updated annually. We will publish and promote this policy to all staff, paid or unpaid, including but not limited to, Trustees, Senior Management Team, employees, freelancers, mentors and event volunteers - through induction, training and supervision. We endeavour to disseminate, as appropriate, this policy to all who



come into contact with our charity e.g., children, young people, their parents, carers, families, teaching staff and others, such as organisational delivery partners and funders.

Policy Aim

As members of SAFEcic, we aim at all times to attain best-safeguarding practices throughout all our activities with children, young people, their parents, carers and/or families. We endeavour to provide a safe and friendly environment and celebrate all achievements. We will achieve this by adhering strictly to this policy, guidance and risk assessments. Our organisation holds current Public Liability Insurance which covers all our activities.

Lead and Deputy for Safeguarding

Our Lead for Safeguarding is:

Ed Cervantes-Watson

CEO

ed@firstuk.org

Our Deputy for Safeguarding is:

Vicky Harrold

Head of Operations

vicky@firstuk.org

Their role is to oversee and ensure that our safeguarding policy, which includes eSafety, is fully implemented and that we attain SAFEcic standards.



Their responsibilities are:

- monitoring and recording concerns
- making referrals to social care, or police, as relevant, without delay
- liaison with other agencies
- arranging training for all staff

The Deputy for Safeguarding should be available to support or cover for the Lead.

S/he will also handle any complaints or allegations against the Lead for Safeguarding if appropriate. It is important that the Lead and Deputy for Safeguarding are unconnected.

Line of accountability for safeguarding

The responsibility for safeguarding at board or committee level is shared between members. Safeguarding is on the organisation's risk register. A Senior Member of the Trustee Board is appointed to take strategic responsibility for the organisation's safeguarding arrangements. This person should be unconnected to the Lead for Safeguarding and Deputy for Safeguarding and should have up to date and relevant training with the ability to develop knowledge, skills and expertise in safeguarding.

Our Senior Lead for Safeguarding is:

Mr Toby Osborne

Trustee and Safeguarding Lead

tposborne@live.com



Why do we need a Safeguarding Policy?

All organisations that work or come into contact with children, young people and/or adults at risk need to have safeguarding policies and procedures in place.

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

To undertake these responsibilities, we:

- have senior staff and trustees committed to safeguarding
- are clear about people's responsibilities and accountability
- have a culture of listening to children, young people and adults at risk
- undertake safer recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers working with children & young people and adults at risk
- have procedures for safeguarding children young people and adults at risk
- have procedures for dealing with allegations against, and concerns about, and staff
- make sure staff, paid and unpaid, have mandatory induction and further safeguarding training, supervision, reviews and support
- have agreements about working with other organisations and agencies

Definition of a child/young person

There is no single law that defines the age of a child across the UK. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the UK government in 1991, states that a child “means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” (Article1, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989). A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday (16th in Scotland). In Scotland, whilst child protection procedures may be considered for a person up to the age of 18, the legal boundaries of childhood and adulthood are variously defined.



Definition of an adult at risk

There is no single law that defines an adult at risk across the UK. An adult at risk is a person over the age of 18 years (16 in Scotland) and is:

- having needs for care and support, and
- experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and neglect and
- as a result of those care needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Related Policies

Data Protection

We will treat any personal information by which an individual can be identified, for example, name, address, and email, in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018), and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and will not share information with any third party, except where required by to do so by law.

Confidentiality

This policy is in line with government guidance about confidentiality and these details will be made available to all staff, children, young children, adults at risk, parents and carers.

We fully endorse the principle of the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk, overriding any obligations of confidence we may hold to others. No one working, or involved, with our organisation can promise absolute confidentiality. Individual cases will only be shared or discussed on a “need-to-know” basis.

Whistleblowing



Whistleblowing is when someone raises a concern externally about a person or practice within the organisation, which will affect others in an illegal and or harmful way.

Our organisation promotes the sharing of any concerns regarding the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk as soon as possible with the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding. If individuals reporting their concerns within our organisation do not feel they have been acted upon then we support their right to report these concerns to the Local Authority Designated Office (LADO) (England and Wales only) social care services, the police, and /or the relevant Regulatory Authority – in this case the [Charity Commission](#). They can also contact the [NSPCC dedicated helplines](#) and the charity [Protect](#) for advice and support.

All media enquiries will be handled by Vicki Milesen, Content Manager.

Information Sharing

Timely and accurate written records play an essential role in safeguarding individuals, who may have suffered, are suffering or are at significant risk of suffering harm.

Records must be shared at the appropriate time when necessary. Within our organisation the decision to share written information, and with whom, will be undertaken by the Lead or the Deputy for Safeguarding.

Safer Recruitment

Our organisation is committed to safe recruitment in line with the relevant legislation and guidance from the government and the Charity Commission for recruiting all staff, paid or unpaid. We do this by:

- advertising vacancies with a clear commitment required to safeguarding
- assigning all posts detailed job descriptions
- obtaining full personal details via an application form (not CVs) with particular relevance to previous work with children, young people and adults at risk



- when a candidate is selected for an interview the relevant criminal declaration form will be sent for completion as set out by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, as amended
- always taking up two written references, one from the most recent employer or education establishment
- undertaking all interviews face-to-face, based on the job description
- ensuring at least one person on each interview panel will have undertaken Safer Recruitment training, in line with the relevant [Charity Commission](#) safe recruitment guidelines
- having sound procedures and recording for interviewing to ensure we are satisfied, and can evidence that the applicant is appropriate and suitable

Any appointment will only be confirmed subject to:

- a satisfactory ID and criminal records check at the appropriate level, including [Certificates of Good Conduct](#) for foreign nationals and the [International Child Protection Certificate \(ICPC\)](#) for anyone who works with children and has lived in the UK and also travelled overseas
- a follow-up of written references by telephone if relevant to the vacant post
- a check of essential qualifications and any specific professional details
- confirmation of the [Right to Work in the UK](#) for employed personnel
- fitness to work as relevant

Induction and Training

We have a clear induction and training strategy with clear job descriptions and responsibilities and all relevant procedures. All new staff, paid and unpaid, will receive induction training as soon as possible and sign to record they have:

- received and understood this policy
- been given any relevant resources
- understood the commitment to safeguarding training

When needed, staff will receive further safeguarding training, at the appropriate level, as soon as possible. We also agree to a probationary period of 3 months with clear goals and then provide appraisals at regular intervals every 12 months (alongside regular weekly line management supervision) months.



Updated safeguarding training is normally required every 2 years (online) or three years (face-to-face).

All charity employees also undertake the free online government training for [PREVENT Channel](#) and [FGM](#)

Working Practices

Consent

When consent is required for any care, activity or intervention we will, unless it is an emergency, obtain consent from the individual if of sufficient age and or understanding.

Where relevant, we will ensure we fulfil our obligations under Child Care Law in terms of parental responsibility and Mental Capacity Legislation on supporting, where possible, the individual's right to make their own decisions. Any decisions made should be the least restrictive and recorded.

Staff Ratios to Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

There must always be a minimum of two responsible adults present for any activities. The charity adopts best practices in terms of staffing ratios at its events; we strongly recommend a ratio no higher than one staff member to 10 young people, in line with [NSPCC's guidelines](#) for our events.

Lone and One to One Working

No charity staff member, mentor or volunteer should ever be in the presence of a young person without an additional responsible adult present. We will avoid lone working, one-to-one working with children and adults at risk whenever possible to protect both individuals. A risk assessment will always be undertaken to ensure:

- the care or activity provided is suitable for one-to-one working



- the lone worker has been recruited, trained and supervised to undertake this particular role
- that health and safety issues have been identified and recommendations followed
- safeguards are in place to protect individual's rights to safe working practice
- safeguards are in place in relation to strategies for emergency situations
- relevant business insurance is in place for the use of personal vehicles
- accurate and relevant written recording is maintained following any care and activity, signed and dated

Young People who work in our Organisation

All young people who are undertaking volunteer work, apprenticeships or work experience within our organisation are to be included in this policy and their safeguarding as individuals is given the same importance as all young people we come into contact with. Any disclosures, and observations of possible harm or disturbing behaviour must be reported to the Lead or Deputy immediately. They will also require an induction program that includes their commitment to safeguarding within the remit of the safeguarding policy and in line with all staff induction.

In addition, information on the young person's contacts is recorded as relevant e.g. parents, carers, school representatives and any supervisors, with emergency contact numbers.

We will check with the relevant local authority's education welfare team to see if an employment permit is required for any young people working with us and, in the cases of live performances, if a child performance licence is required.

Code of Conduct

We aim to provide a safe environment free from discrimination, upholding and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion. We undertake to:

- treat all children, young people and adults at risk with respect and dignity
- ensure that their welfare and safety are paramount at all times
- maintain professional boundaries both face-to-face and when online



- always use the organisation's official CRM email system, social media, etc., when contacting the at risk groups we work with
- always listen to individuals and take account of their wishes and feelings
- always act professionally and not accept bullying, swearing or other disruptive behaviour
- liaise openly with parents and carers
- only use physical contact if absolutely necessary
- avoid being alone with children, young people and adults at risk whenever possible
- listen to, and act upon, any disclosures, allegations, or concerns of abuse
- participate in approved safeguarding training at appropriate levels
- never 'friend' a participant, volunteer or ambassador under 18 on any social media platform
- never take photos or have data of participants on personal devices
- ensure restraint is only used as part of an agreed plan by staff trained in the use of the particular restraint or as an emergency action to protect from harm. All use of restraint will be reported and recorded by the member of staff concerned to the Lead or Deputy for safeguarding and to the relevant manager
- follow our safeguarding policy at all times
- make activities FUN and enjoyable

Recognising Abuse in Children Young People and Adults at Risk

The following list is for guidance only. It is important to be observant, listen to what is being said and record. e.g. is what you are observing and being told about an injury consistent with the injury?

- Abuse related to faith or belief
- Alcohol and Substance misuse
- Bullying, harassment and sexual harassment
- Breast Ironing
- Carrying offensive weapons
- Child criminal and sexual exploitation including County Lines
- Child on child abuse, including sexual violence and upskirting
- Concealed pregnancy
- Criminal exploitation
- Discriminatory
- Domestic violence, including "honour" based abuse
- Emotional



- Exploitive use of technology
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Financial or material abuse
- Forced marriage
- Gangs
- Gambling
- Hate and "mate" crime
- Hazing and initiation rites
- Hoarding
- Modern slavery
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Online Safety
- Organisational or institutional
- Psychological
- Physical
- Radicalisation
- Self-neglect
- Sexual
- Sextortion
- Trafficking

Handling Disclosures

When a disclosure is made by a child, young person or adult at risk it is important to remember to:

- take what you are being told seriously
- stay calm and reassure
- do not investigate
- do not delay

and always

- seek advice from the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding
- make a careful recording of anything you are told or observe, date and sign

A disclosure may come from someone telling you:

- they have or are being abused
- they have concerns about someone else
- they are themselves abusing or likely to abuse someone else



Responding to Concerns

We ensure and emphasise that everyone in our organisation understands and knows how to share any concerns immediately with the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding. Everyone, including both the Lead and Deputy for Safeguarding, will deal with concerns using the following:

Safeguarding Referral Flowchart

Step One:

If you are worried a child, young person or adult at risk has been abused because:

- you have seen something
- someone says they have been abused
- somebody else has told you they are concerned
- there has been an allegation against a colleague
- there has been an anonymous allegation
- an adult has disclosed that they were abused as a child
- a child, young person or adult say they are abusing someone else

Step Two:

Check our safeguarding policy for guidance. Talk to the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding without delay. If they are implicated then report to Additional Senior Lead

Step Three:

The Lead, Deputy or Additional Senior Lead should refer the concern to the relevant adult or children's social care service and/or the Police and follow up the referral in writing within 24 hours.

For England and Wales in cases of allegations against a "person of trust" with a "duty of care" towards a child, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will co-ordinate the next procedural steps.

Under "whistle blowing", anyone can refer directly to the police or social care services and **all relevant Authorities**, when they are concerned the organisation is not managing safeguarding concerns appropriately.

**CONSULT,
MONITOR
AND RECORD**
Sign/Date/Time
*Include name
and job role*

When the concern is about the welfare of a child or adult at risk from schools, colleges, health providers, GP practices, prisons or social care settings, you should refer to that organisation's Lead for Safeguarding in the first instance. Inform the Lead or Deputy that you have referred a concern.

Any consultations should not delay a referral.
In an emergency do not delay: dial 999

Recording Keeping

At all times when required, and especially where there is a safeguarding concern, we are committed to keeping records which are:

- recorded on a [safeguarding incident form \(appendix A\)](#)
- of sufficient details of child, young person or adult at risk to identify individual who is subject of concern and any significant others
- accurate and factual/based on fact, as a true record of:
 - what has been monitored/observed
 - what has been said and by whom
 - what has given cause for concern
 - what action has and/or will be taken including the reason for those actions
 - the reason stated for no action being taken and by whom
- non-judgmental
- timely within 24 hours
- signed and dated by the writer and co- signed by the Lead or Deputy
- shared as appropriate by the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding
- stored safely and securely by the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding

Handling Allegations / Dealing with Complaints / Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures

Our policies and procedures are in line with the statutory guidance, [Charity Commission](#) guidelines, and our disciplinary, complaints and grievance procedures. These will be made available to everyone.

Where a complaint or allegation has been made with regards to any inappropriate behaviour or poor practice, the Lead or Deputy will, in all cases, discuss the situation with social care services (the LADO with regards to children England and Wales only) and/or the police before making an open decision about the best way forward.

In the case where the Lead is implicated, the Deputy should be informed. In the exceptional circumstances that both are involved, the person concerned will inform the Senior Lead. If there is a belief that the concern has not been taken seriously or acted upon then anyone can “Whistleblow”



With regards to disciplinary and grievance procedures, we will take no steps until we have fully discussed and agreed on a strategy with social care services and/or the police, (the LADO, with regards to children England and Wales only). Any investigation will override the need to implement any such procedures. Our management is responsible for making referrals to the relevant:

- Criminal records service
- [regulated settings and regulated professionals](#)
- and the [Charity Commission](#)

Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Harassment

Bullying, harassment and sexual harassment can take many forms and include:

- physical violence including threats, verbal assaults and taunts, the destruction of property, extortion, unwanted sexual interest or contact
- indirect forms of bullying including ignoring a person and the withdrawal of friendship, malicious gossip and spreading rumours, abusive or oppressive graffiti, and the use of social media, electronic messages and websites.
- it is often motivated by prejudice against certain groups for example on the grounds of race, religion, gender and disability

Whether directed at children, young people, adults at risk, staff, volunteers, parents and carers, bullying and harassment, and physical and/or emotional abuse will not be tolerated. All such behaviour will be treated as a safeguarding concern when aimed at children, young people and or adults at risk. If children, young people and/or adults at risk are engaging in bullying or harassment it is also a safeguarding concern and should be reported to the Lead or Deputy for safeguarding.

We will:

- provide a culture of equality and respect for all with zero tolerance for any form of bullying, harassment and sexual harassment
- report all incidents of bullying, harassment or sexual harassment observed or disclosed, to the Lead or Deputy who will take the appropriate action



- take immediate steps to stop the behaviour and mitigate the effects of bullying, harassment and sexual harassment
- record all incidents with observations and witness statements, and action taken, signed, timed and dated

Online Safety

Why do we need to include Online Safety?

Modern digital technology has made access to information and communication increasingly easy for everyone. This is especially so for those who cannot always go out to socialise and rely on websites for social networking, watching films, downloading music, buying lottery tickets, shopping etc. Government guidance is clear, that all organisations working with children, young people adults at risk, families, parents and carers have responsibilities. It is also important to remember, that children, young people and adults at risk can also abuse and such incidents fall into the remit of this policy

Online Safety Code of Conduct:

We expect everyone in our organisation to agree and sign up to our Online Safety code of conduct to:

1. use the Internet and other forms of communication sensibly and politely
2. only access websites, send messages or access and use other resources that will not hurt or upset anybody
3. seek permission if they want to use personal information or take photographs of other people
4. report any concerns to the Lead or Deputy
5. not maintain confidentiality if there is a concern about the welfare of a child, young person or adult at risk

What are the Risks?

There are many potential risks including:



- accessing inappropriate or illegal websites
- receiving unwanted or upsetting texts, e-mail messages or images
- being “groomed” by another with a view to meeting the child, young person or adult at risk for their own illegal purposes including sex, drugs or crime
- sharing nudes or semi-nudes
- viewing or sending unacceptable material such as inciting hatred or violence
- sending bullying messages or posting malicious details about others
- ignoring copyright law by downloading e.g. music, videos, homework cheat materials etc
- overspending on shopping and gambling sites
- being at risk of identity fraud for money transactions
- inappropriate relationships or prostitution

What else might be of concern?

A child, young person or adult at risk who:

- is becoming secretive about where they are going or who they are meeting.
- will not let you see what they are accessing online
- is using a webcam in a closed area, away from other people
- is accessing the web or using a mobile 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
- does not appear to have the money they should have

A person who:

- befriends a child, young person or adult at risk on the internet or by text messaging
- has links to children, young people and/or adults at risk on their social media pages especially if they work in a position of care such as a sports coach or care worker
- is secretive about what they are doing and who they are meeting



Social Media

The [Online Safety Act 2023](#) and associated government guidance [A Guide to the Online Safety Bill](#) now makes social media companies more responsible for their users' safety on their platforms. This means children and adults will be protected online by making social media platforms:

- remove illegal content quickly or prevent it from appearing in the first place. This includes removing content promoting self-harm
- prevent children from accessing harmful and age-inappropriate content
- enforce age limits and age-checking measures
- ensure the risks and dangers posed to children on the largest social media platforms are more transparent, including by publishing risk assessments
- provide parents and children with clear and accessible ways to report problems online when they arise

Such content should be reported to the service provider and if they do not respond appropriately the matter can be reported to [Ofcom](#).

IT IS IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW FIRST WHENEVER ANYONE IS AT RISK OF HARM

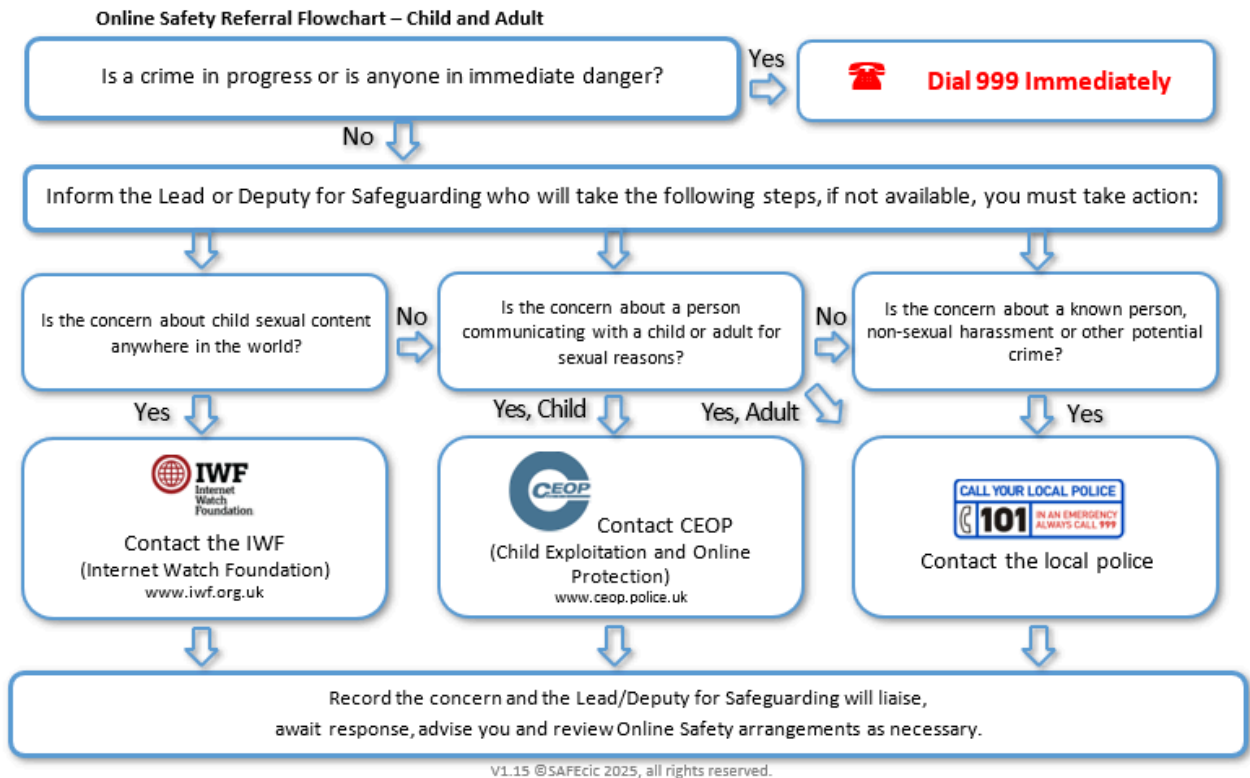
What do I do if I am concerned?

If you have any concerns, speak to the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding. Remember:

- do not delay
- do not investigate
- seek advice from the Lead or Deputy
- make careful recording of anything you observe or are told



Online Safety Referral Flowchart – Child and Adult



Minimising the Risks

We will:

- talk to children, young people and adults at risk about what they are accessing online
- ensure everyone uses PCs, iPads and other technology in a general space where we can monitor what is going on
- explain the risks of giving out personal details online
- talk about how people can be anyone they want to be online, e.g. by using misleading emails, photographs of other people, telling lies about their age, hobbies, school
- encourage children, young people and adults at risk to think carefully about what photographs or videos they use online. They can be used and tampered with by other people, or they may not be appropriate
- advise children, young people and adults at risk to only text, chat or webcam to people they know in real life

- talk about how to identify SPAM messages or junk mail and how to delete them. This also applies to messages from people they do not know, or opening attachments
- discuss how people hide their identities online and the importance of never meeting new online “friends” in real life
- make sure children, young people and adults at risk understand they can always talk to us, or their parents and/or carers, about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable
- look on the internet together for information about how to deal with or report problems. e.g. [The National Crime Agency's CEOP Education](#)
- talk about how/when information or images get onto the internet, they can never be erased

Other useful resources can be found at [Ofcom](#)

Safeguarding Practical Guidance

Photography & Filming Guidance

Both still and moving images are key to recording the successes and achievements of children, young people and adults at risk in their lives and activities. However, it is vital to remember that images (especially digital images) can be used, shared, stored and/or distributed inappropriately and that their storage and use must comply with the UK GDPR.

It is therefore important to be clear about:

- explaining to parents and carers why caution is necessary
- the purpose of photos e.g. parent’s and carer’s own record, media and publicity etc
- the content required when using a professional photographer
- informing parents and seeking their consent for any publication or media use
- publishing only necessary identifying details alongside individual’s photos in newspapers, websites etc
- taking photographs openly and away from sensitive areas (changing rooms, toilets, etc)
- the suitability of clothing e.g. swimsuits
- any group photos being taken only during the activity or on the premises
- all those taking photos sign a registration form, which also identifies the purpose and use of any images



- ensuring volunteers and staff are briefed to not take any photographs on personal devices or share pictures of our events that contain those under the age of 18 on personal social media channels
- ensuring secure storage of all images
- identifying how long unused images will be retained
- identifying how long copies of published images will be retained

The above guidance applies to all still and moving images, however, they are created (mobile phone, still camera, video camera etc). The type of equipment and the equipment's owner should also be recorded on the registration form.

Transport

We do not provide transport to young people.

Activities, Events and Visiting Speakers/Activity Leaders

We will always ensure visitors and activities undertaken are risk assessed and we are committed to:

- ensuring that those who run activities have the expertise, knowledge and skills to do so properly
- completing a risk assessment which involves identifying risks and the means of reducing or eliminating those risks for all activities or events
- risk assessing any changes being made to activities or events involving children, young people and adults at risk
- having a written plan in place if the event or activity has to be cancelled
- having a written plan in place in case of emergency including contact numbers
- implementing the required actions identified by the risk assessment process and reviewing the effectiveness of these on a regular basis

The Late Pick-Up of a Child, Young Person or Adult at Risk

If attempts to contact the parent and nominated emergency contact fail, then the supervising adult should wait with the child, young person or adult at risk with other staff, volunteers or parents wherever possible.

Staff, paid and unpaid, should avoid:



- taking the child, young person or adult at risk home or to another location
- waiting alone with the child, young person or adult at risk in a vehicle or at the venue
- sending the child, young person or adult at risk home with another person, without parental consent
- leaving the child, young person or adult at risk alone.

If all attempts to make contact fail, it may be advisable to contact the police for advice.

Child, Young Person or Adult goes Missing

If a child, young person or adult at risk goes missing from the group or organisation it should be reported to the police. Use 999 where there is a concern that they cannot be found or are vulnerable.

A missing person may be assessed as 'at risk' if they fit one or more of the following categories.

- is under 16
- has expressed feelings of suicide
- has dementia
- has been acting totally out of character
- has mental health issues
- is under increased stress
- has an illness or a physical disability
- has a learning disability
- is in need of regular medication/care

The Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding should be informed as soon as possible, and all details and actions recorded, dated, timed and signed.

First Aid

Our First Aiders have completed specific training as set out by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). They hold valid and up-to-date certificates of competence issued by an organisation whose training and qualifications are approved by the HSE.



The duties of a First Aider are:

- to give immediate first aid to children, young people, adults at risk, staff or visitors when needed
- to ensure that an ambulance or other professional medical help is called when necessary

Our organisation undertakes to ensure there is always a trained First Aider on site at our venues or, if other venues are used such as schools, that they have appropriate first aid cover.

We also provide training and guidance on dealing with hazardous materials such as blood, other bodily fluids and chemicals. We ensure sufficient equipment is available to deal with accidents or spillage.

All incidents will be reported and recorded in the First Aid and Incident Accident Books

Buildings and Venues

Safeguarding risk assessments will be carried out on all buildings and venues used by our organisation or by the host's venue management, such as schools.

The safeguarding risk assessment should cover:

- access especially how people enter and leave the building
- signing in protocol
- use of keys
- toilets and changing rooms
- any outside space
- car parks
- any other relevant issues



Ethical fundraising

We are committed to our fundraising being:

- Legal: All fundraising must meet the requirements of the law.
- Open: Fundraisers must be open with the public about their processes and must be willing to explain (where appropriate) if they are asked for more information.
- Honest: Fundraisers must act with integrity and must not mislead the public about the cause they are fundraising for or the way a donation will be used.
- Respectful: Fundraisers must demonstrate respect whenever they have contact with any member of the public.



In order to attain the highest standards of safeguarding practice, everybody needs to be vigilant in adhering to this policy and also assessing the risks of their own work and activities. These risk assessments will be carried out annually by the Lead and/or Deputy. However, it is the responsibility of everyone to draw attention to practices and procedures that they are unhappy or uncomfortable with.

Policy Date

This policy was agreed upon and disseminated on 31 Jan 2025 and will be reviewed annually or when there are substantial organisational changes.

Policy Review Date: 31 Jan 2026

Lead for Safeguarding:



Deputy for Safeguarding:



Trustee for Safeguarding:


Toby Osborne (Feb 17, 2026 12:06:15 GMT)

Date of next review: 31 Jan 2027



Appendix A FIRST UK Safeguarding Incident Report Form

Your name:	Organisation: FIRST UK
Your role:	
Address: 7 Bell Yard, London Postcode: WC2A 2JR Telephone number:	
Email address:	
Child's name:	Child's date of birth:
Child's ethnic origin:	Does child have a disability?
Child's gender:	
Parent's / carer's / Teachers name (s):	
Contact information	
Address:	Postcode:
Telephone numbers:	Email address:
Are you reporting your own concerns or responding to concerns raised by someone else:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Responding to my own concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Responding to concerns raised by someone else	
If responding to concerns raised by someone else: Please provide further information below	
Name:	
Position within organisation or relationship to the child:	
Telephone numbers:	Email address:
Date and times of incident:	
Details of the incident or concerns:	

Please provide any witness accounts of the incident:



Please provide details of any witnesses to the incident: Name:			
Position within the club or relationship to the child:			
Date of birth (if child):			
Address:		Postcode:	
Telephone number:		Email address:	
Please provide details of action taken to date:			
Has the incident been reported to any external agencies? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If YES please provide further details:			
Name of organisation / agency:			
Contact person:			
Telephone numbers:			
Email address:			
Agreed action or advice given:			

Your Signature:		Print name:	
Date:			



