



Young Climate Warriors Online Safety Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy statement

Young Climate Warriors works with children, schools and families. We set weekly challenges for children to complete at home and encourage them to HIT THE RED BUTTON on the website when they complete a challenge. We provide children, schools and families with a range of web-based resources designed to introduce the challenges and support learning about climate change. We also offer school visits, where practical, to help children and staff deliver assemblies and classroom or eco-council discussions on Young Climate Warriors.

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; and
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

This policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in Young Climate Warriors' activities.

Legal framework

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

- online abuse learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse
- bullying learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying
- child protection learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind; and
- children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

We recognise that:

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities, but 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 online;
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using the Young Climate Warriors website;
- 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; and
- 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.

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

- appointing an online safety coordinator;
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our code of conduct;
- 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;
- 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 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; and
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

If online 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 on dealing with all forms of abuse;
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account; and
- 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

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

- Safeguarding Policy
- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing

- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Photography, filming and image sharing guidance

Contact details

Online safety co-ordinator and designated lead for safeguarding

Name: sarah@youngclimatewarriors.org

NSPCC Helpline

0808 800 5000

Dated: 11 June 2022

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually. This policy was last reviewed on: 11 June 2022.