

RJ4All Online safety policy statement

January 2021

The RJ4All International Institute acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

This policy:

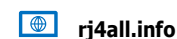
- applies to all adults including the Board, volunteers, paid staff, agency staff and anyone working on behalf of The Institute;
- recognises that the welfare and interests of children and young people are paramount in all circumstances; and
- aims to ensure that all children and young people have a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe and child centered environment and are protected from abuse whilst participating in our activities and otherwise

This policy should be read alongside RJ4All's policies and procedures on child protection and safeguarding. More information about safeguarding and child protection can be found at <https://www.rj4all.info/safeguarding-policy>

The purpose of this policy statement

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the internet, facilitated through technology like computers, tablets, mobile phones and other internet-enabled devices (Department for Education, 2018; Department of Health, 2017; Scottish Government, 2014; Welsh Assembly

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Government, 2018).

RJ4All works with children, young people and families as part of its activities. Some of these activities take place online. These include: online chat room and forum services addressed to young people and their families, e-courses targeted to children, young people and families and online competitions on different societal issues.

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

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in RJ4All's online activities.

Legal framework

This policy is governed under UK law and specifically The Children Act 2004 and The Children Act 1989. Furthermore, RJ4All works within the legal framework of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, The Equality Act 2010 and the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

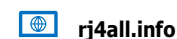
We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- 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; 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 online
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using RJ4All's network and devices
- 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
- 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

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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 behaviour code for adults
- 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 an online safety agreement for use with young people and their parents/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/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
- examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

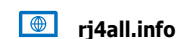
If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- 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, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account
- 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 safeguarding policies and procedures, which can be found here: https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/c0b1f356/files/uploaded/RJ4All_Safeguarding_Policy.pdf

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Contact details

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We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: 27/01/21

Signed:





[this should be signed by the most senior person with responsibility for safeguarding in your organisation, for example the safeguarding lead on your board of trustees].

Date:27/01/21.....

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