



Policy Title	Online Safety Policy
Policy Owner	Amber Stepney
Status	Approved
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Version Control

Version #	Date of review	Reviewer	Summary of changes
6	17/05/2024	Julia Harrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changed to correct headed paper• Changed font to FS Me Pro• Added policy and version control tables• Added numbered paragraphs• Updated legislation• Added section on social media

1.0 Introduction

Tarners recognises that new technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people in today's society, both within their homes but also within school and other external youth provision.

The internet and other digital and information technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. Electronic communication can help professionals and children and young people learn from each other. These technologies can stimulate discussion, promote creativity and increase awareness of context to promote effective learning. Children and young people should have an entitlement to safe internet access at all times.

The requirement to ensure that children and young people are able to use the internet and related communications technologies appropriately and safely is addressed as part of the wider duty of care to which all who work in children and young people provision are bound.

However, the use of these new technologies can also put children and young people at risk. Some of the dangers they may face include:

- Access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images or other content
- Unauthorised access to / loss of / sharing of personal information.
- The risk of being subject to grooming by those with whom they make contact on the internet.
- The sharing / distribution of personal images without an individual's consent or knowledge
- Inappropriate communication / contact with others, including strangers.
- Cyber-bullying
- Access to unsuitable video / internet games
- An inability to evaluate the quality, accuracy and relevance of information on the internet.
- Illegal downloading of music or video files

- The potential for excessive use which may impact on the social and emotional development and learning of the young person.

Many of these risks reflect situations in the off-line world and it is essential that this Online Safety Policy is used in conjunction with Tarner's Child and Adult Safeguarding Policies.

2.0 Purpose of this policy

Tarner Community Project works with children, young people and families as part of its activities.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when using the internet, social media or mobile devices to access or engage in our services.
- 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 applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in Tarner's Community activities.

3.0 Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England, including:

- [Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations for managers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [19.1 Supporting online safety | Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures Manual](#)
- [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage for group and school providers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations for managers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Child Safety Online: A Practical Guide for Providers of Social Media and Interactive Services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

4.0 Objectives

At Tarner 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

At Tarner 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 Tarner's online 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 in their approach to online safety.

5.0 Responsibilities

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

- Ensuring all staff are trained in internet safety.
- 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 safeguarding 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 usernames, 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.

6.0 Social Media

Tarner are committed to following the Six Key Safety Principles as outlined in 'Child Safety Online: A Practical Guide for Providers of Social Media and Interactive Services' (2016). Although not all principles are relevant to Tarner's online activity all future developments will be in accordance with these Six Principles and managed by the Head of Services.

- **Managing content on our service** – all social media platforms are managed by a member of the SMT.
- **Parental controls** – this is enforced by the sites own policies and procedures, but SMT managers will need to be aware of how these may impact interaction with Tarner's website and social media sites..
- **Dealing with abuse/misuse** – this is outlined by the sites policies.
- **Dealing with child sexual abuse content and illegal contact** – this is managed by the social media platform.
- **Privacy and controls** – this is managed by SMT and the social media platform.
- **Education and awareness** – this is held by Project Managers to ensure they work with parents, carers, users and their communities to raise awareness about online child safety.

7.0 If online abuse occurs

Ofsted Number: EY471335.

Registered Charity Number: 1152321.

Registered Office: 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 0GY

Principal Address: Tarner Park, Sussex Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 9HS

If any staff become aware that online abuse has occurred, 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, to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.