

# Online Safety Policy – September 2026

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| Policy Title:   | Online Safety                        |
| Effective Date: | September 2024                       |
| Review Date:    | September 2027 (reviewed annually)   |
| Version:        | 4                                    |
| Policy Lead:    | Edward Thatcher                      |
| Authorised by:  | Jane Haywood                         |
| Role:           | Safeguarding Lead, Board of Trustees |
| Authorised:     | September 2026                       |

Ed Thatcher

CEO



September 2026

Dave Poulsom

Chair of Trustees



September 2026

## 1 Policy statement

Endeavour works with children and families as part of its activities, often in the outdoors and rarely with electronic devices. However, occasionally we may need to use digital resources with groups.

We recognise that online safety education begins in the Early Years. For our youngest children, online safety is embedded through the development of positive online behaviours. This includes:

- Understanding that devices are used with adult permission
- Learning that we are kind and respectful online
- Beginning to understand privacy (e.g., not sharing personal information)
- Knowing to tell a trusted adult if something online makes them feel uncomfortable
- Developing turn-taking and safe handling of devices

Teaching is age-appropriate, play-based and reinforced through modelling and daily interactions.

These expectations form part of our wider behaviour culture and safeguarding approach and apply consistently across both digital and face-to-face interactions.

## 2 Scope

This policy applies to:

- All Endeavour staff, volunteers, trustees, students on placement, and contractors.
- All children and young people engaged in Endeavour activities, both on and off site, including during residential and outdoor activities.

## 3 Legal framework

This policy is underpinned by *Keeping Children Safe in Education* statutory guidance for Online Safety

Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:

- online abuse - <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety/preventing-online-abuse-and-harm>
- bullying - <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-cyberbullying>
- child protection - <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/england>
- Use of generative artificial education in education - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/generative-artificial-intelligence-in-education/generative-artificial-intelligence-ai-in-education>
- Generative AI safety guidelines: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/generative-ai-product-safety-expectations/generative-ai-product-safety-expectations>

## 4 Definitions

### Cyberbullying

The use of electronic communication technology to emotionally abuse or bully someone (e.g. posting on social media).

## **Cybercrime**

The use of information technology to commit criminal acts (e.g. hacking, distributing malware or denial of service attacks)

## **Phishing**

The use of unsolicited emails to gather personal information or passwords to commit fraud.

## **Upskirting**

The taking of photographs without consent under a person's clothing for the purposes of sexual gratification or to humiliate the victim.

# **5 Prevention**

## **Acceptable use policy**

- Endeavour has an acceptable use policy for information technology to provide clear specific direction to staff and volunteers on how to behave online.
- Endeavour provides supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety

## **Mobile phone use**

The Government now mandates that schools are mobile phone-free environments. Endeavour has a public health approach to young people's use of mobile phones, as outlined in the behaviour management and positive handling policy. In summary, mobile phones are not allowed to be used by young people throughout the day, however Endeavour are aware that for some of the young people that attend, they have not been in an educational establishment for some time and may show signs of addiction to their devices. Endeavour adopts a flexible approach that build young people's resilience and self-control when it comes to enforcing this. The risks of mobile phone use for child-on-child abuse is highlighted in the anti-bullying policy.

In Early Years provision, children do not access personal mobile phones. Any digital technology used will be supervised, developmentally appropriate and directly linked to learning. Staff will explicitly model safe handling, respectful communication and simple privacy rules.

## **Filtering and Monitoring**

- Endeavour will appoint an online safety coordinator from within the senior leadership team.
- Endeavour will ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place on all devices and networks used for delivery to safeguard young people from harmful or inappropriate content and online risks.
- The online safety co-ordinator will regularly review the effectiveness of the filtering system to ensure that it blocks harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.
- The online safety co-ordinator will regularly review monitoring records to identify any trends or contextual safeguarding issues that may need addressing.

## **Online Safety Education**

- Endeavour embeds online safety education within all sessions where technology is used, ensuring young people understand safe behaviours, risks such as cyberbullying, grooming, radicalisation, and strategies for seeking help.

- Endeavour supports and encourages parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- In Early Years provision, online safety education focuses on modelling and reinforcing positive online behaviours rather than exposure to online risk scenarios. This includes;
  - adult-led use of devices,
  - teaching children to ask permission before taking photographs,
  - reinforcing kindness and respect in digital interactions,
  - building confidence in telling a trusted adult if something online causes confusion or concern.
- Endeavour supports young people to self-regulate their mobile phone use outside of education; this is covered in the **mobile phone use** of the **behaviour policy**.
- Endeavour support young people to use mobile phones outside of education in a way that is respectful and kind; this is covered in the **anti-bullying policy**.
- Endeavour has an Artificial Intelligence policy that outlines how it will be used by staff, and the limitations on using data involving young people.

## Cybersecurity

- Endeavour reviews and updates the security of our information systems regularly
- Endeavour ensures that user names, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- Endeavour ensures personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate

## Social Media

- Endeavour ensures 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
- Endeavour examines and risk assess any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

## 6 Responding to incidents

- Endeavour works closely with an IT supplier to ensure the continued security of the information technology systems.
- Endeavour has a clear and robust procedure for responding to online peer-on-peer abuse; this is covered in the **anti-bullying policy**.
- Endeavour will refer PREVENT concerns around radicalisation identified through safeguarding disclosures or monitoring through the Channel process, with either information from monitoring processes, or gathered through other safeguarding reporting mechanisms.
- Endeavour will review the effectiveness of filtering systems following any incident.
- In Early Years provision, any concerns relating to inappropriate digital content, unauthorised image capture, or unsafe online behaviours will be treated as safeguarding concerns. These will be recorded in the child's safeguarding file and managed in line with the Safeguarding Policy.

## 7 Training and Awareness

- All staff receive annual safeguarding training, which includes current e-safety issues.
- DSLs and DDSs undertake additional training on online safeguarding (including wider contextual safeguarding in online spaces).

- Staff working within Early Years receive guidance on developmentally appropriate online safety education, including how to model positive online behaviours and introduce simple concepts of privacy, consent and help-seeking.
- We provide information and resources to parents/carers, empowering them to recognise and respond to current concerns

## 8 Related policies and procedures

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

- Safeguarding Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Employee handbook
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- AI Policy

## 9 Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective, compliant with statutory guidance, and reflective of best safeguarding practice.

This policy will be reviewed and implemented prior to any delivery models that offer more extensive or organised digital resources.

## 10 Contact details

Online safety co-ordinator

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