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**Online Safety Policy Statement**

**The purpose of this policy statement**

The Saracens Foundation works with children, young people, and vulnerable adults as part of our activities. This includes providing sport and physical activity, and educational sessions both face-to-face and online.

The purpose of the policy statement is to:

* ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, which is paramount, when using the internet, social media, mobile devices or streaming 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 statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children, young people and vulnerable adults and anyone involved in the Saracens Sport Foundation.

**Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children and vulnerable adults 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, young people and vulnerable adults should never experience abuse of any kind.
* Children, young people and vulnerable adults should be able to use the internet for education, personal development and enjoyment, 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, young people and vulnerable adults safe online, whether or not they are using Saracens Sport Foundation’s network and devices;
* all people, 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.

**We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by the following:**

* We have appointed an online safety coordinator; Kieran Crombie, who is also the child protection lead for the Saracens Foundation.
* 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 and vulnerable adults using our services 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, carers and guardians to do what they can to keep their children safe online.
* Develop clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child.
* Reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly.
* Ensuring that users’ names, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively.
* Ensuring personal information about the vulnerable 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 vulnerable adults are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent was 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 our 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 the 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**

* Sarries Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults policy 2020-21
* Reporting flowchart

**Online Safety Co-ordinator**

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