



# Online Safety Policy Statement

**March 2024**

This policy statement reflects the safeguarding needs of the children and young people The Ranch Weymouth works with and aligns with our other key safeguarding and organisational policies, procedures and standards.

This policy should be read alongside The Ranch Weymouth's policies and procedures on child protection and safeguarding. These can be found on our publicly accessible policies and procedures webpage: [www.theranchweymouth.com](http://www.theranchweymouth.com)

The Safeguarding hub on 365 Sharepoint for staff

## The purpose of this policy statement

The Ranch Weymouth works with children and families as part of its activities. These include: Providing Alternative Education Provision, Animal Assisted Interventions and education re-engagement.

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.

This policy has been written with the support of:

[nspcc.org.uk/learning](http://nspcc.org.uk/learning)  
[learning@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:learning@nspcc.org.uk)

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in The Ranch Weymouth's 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](#)
- [bullying](#)
- [child protection](#).

## 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 The Ranch Weymouth's network and devices
- 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
- 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.

Find out further information:

- [safeguarding children who come from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities](#)
- [safeguarding d/Deaf and disabled children and young people](#)
- [safeguarding LGBTQ+ children and young people](#)
- [safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\)](#).

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

- appointing an online safety coordinator: Overview by **Iain Woodbridge** Designated Safeguarding Lead (Level 3), **Ann-Marie Carter** Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Level 3) in conjunction with **Sarah Stilwell** System and Design (PREVENT, Safeguarding Level 2)

- 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 or 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 or 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.

The Ranch Weymouth understands the importance of children being able to use the internet for education and personal development. This includes social media platforms, games and apps. We aim to support children and young people in making use of these in our work. However, we also

recognise that safeguards need to be in place to ensure children are kept safe at all times. This agreement is part of our overarching code of behaviour for children and young people and staff and volunteers.

It also fits with our overarching online safety policy.

Parents/carers are kept up to date on any legislative changes that impact The Ranch Weymouth's policies via Class Dojo, email mail, newsletters. All policies and procedures are also accessible on The Ranch Weymouth's public domain website.

As part of our registration procedure and document capture, parents are asked to provide informed consent and agreement to how images of their child is used, including but not limited to uploading of digital images. This is then noted next to the main register database and all staff with access to The Ranch Weymouth's social media is informed.

The young people and children that attend The Ranch Weymouth have online safety sessions within the ASDAN PSHE learning framework and via The Ranch Weymouth internet work booklet and displayed posters.

Children and young people who attend the setting will also have a named keyworker to raise concerns alongside knowledge of who the designated safeguarding lead and deputy designated safeguarding lead are. This information is communicated visually on displayed posters and via regular news feeds on Class Dojo.

See appendices.

## **Role of Parents/carers and pupils**

All members of the school community – pupils, parents, staff and visitors, are asked to sign and return an Acceptable Use Agreement to ensure everyone understands how digital and information technologies can be used safely, in and out of school.

Any concerns regarding online safety should be reported to the class tutor initially who will pass this on to the safeguarding lead if necessary.

For more information on safer ways to use the internet please click below:

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk>  
Safer Internet Day 2021 films  
<http://parentzone.org.uk>  
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>  
Tik Tok – what parents need to know

Here's a link to a lesson on the BBC all about staying safer online:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons/safer-internet-day-live-lesson/zdh2wnb>

At the time of registering a placement with The Ranch Weymouth parents/carers are provided with an agreement to sign. Parents/carers are asked to read and discuss this agreement as outlined below, with their child and then sign it.

### **Young person's agreement**

*I will be responsible for my behaviour when using the internet, including social media platforms, games and apps. This includes the resources I access and the language I use.*

*I will not deliberately browse, download or upload material that could be considered offensive or illegal. If I accidentally come across any such material I will report it immediately to the group leader.*

*I will not send anyone material that could be considered threatening, bullying, offensive or illegal.*

*I will not give out any personal information online, such as my name, phone number or address.*

*I will not reveal my passwords to anyone.*

*I will not arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone I meet online unless I have discussed this with my parents and/or group leader and am accompanied by a trusted adult.*

*If I am concerned or upset about anything I see on the internet or any messages that I receive, I know I can talk to Woody (Iain Woodbridge) and Ann-Marie Carter.*

*I understand that my internet use at The Ranch Weymouth will be monitored and logged and can be made available to the group leader. I understand that these rules are designed to keep me safe and that if I choose not to follow them, The Ranch Weymouth may contact my parents/carers.*

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

### **The Ranch Weymouth's role**

As with all other risks, it is impossible to eliminate those risks completely. It is therefore essential, through good educational provision to build pupils' resilience to the risks to which they may be exposed, so that they have the confidence and skills to face and deal with these risks.

As an education setting we provide the necessary safeguards to help ensure that we have done everything that could reasonably be expected to manage and reduce these risks. We want to ensure that the whole school community – pupils, parents, carers and staff – are responsible users and stay safe when using the internet and other technologies for educational, personal and recreational use.

- 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 or 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 policies and procedures, including:

- [Safeguarding & Child Protection](#)
- procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing
- dealing with allegations of abuse made against a child or young person • [managing allegations](#) against staff and volunteers
- [code of conduct](#) for staff and volunteers
- [anti-bullying policy](#) and procedures
- [Camera, Observation & photography](#) image sharing guidance.

## Contact details

### Online safety co-ordinator through the role of Designated Senior lead for safeguarding and child protection

Name: **Iain Woodbridge**

Director (PREVENT Duty & Level 3 Safeguarding, Safer recruitment trained)

Email: [woody@theranchweymouth.com](mailto:woody@theranchweymouth.com)

### Deputy lead for safeguarding and child protection

Name: **Ann - Marie Carter**

Administration Lead (PREVENT Duty & Level 3 Safeguarding)

Email: [office@theranchweymouth.com](mailto:office@theranchweymouth.com)

### Operational Systems Design

Name: **Sarah Stilwell**

(PREVENT and Level 2 Safeguarding)

Email: [sarah@theranchweymouth.com](mailto:sarah@theranchweymouth.com)

### NSPCC Helpline

0808 800 5000

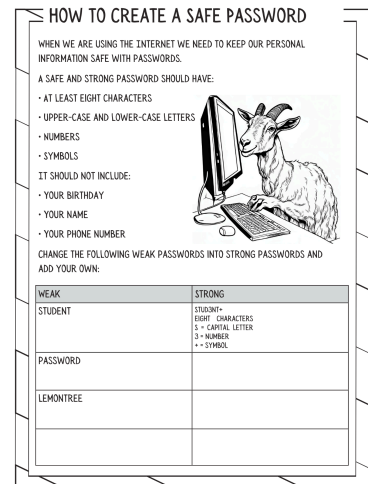
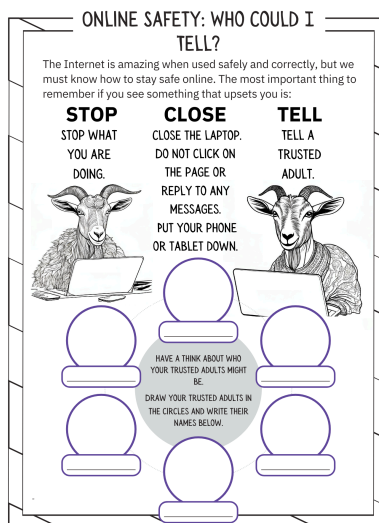
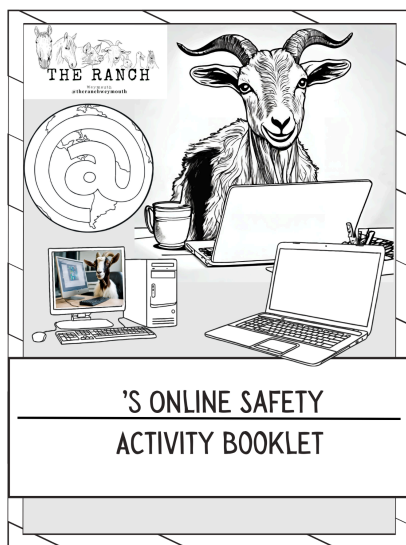
We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually. This policy was last reviewed on: March 2024

Signed by The Board of Directors:

Iain Woodbridge, Toni Matthews, James Matthews Woodbridge, Diana Glencross

## Appendices

Example of The Ranch Weymouth safe internet usage workbook:



Example of The Ranch Weymouth Safeguard Poster:

