Online Safety Policy

Alburgh with Denton & Harleston Preschool Nurseries work with our children and their families, delivering activities, that ensure our children receive high-quality Early Years education in a safe and stimulating learning environment.

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 statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in our preschools activities.

Legal framework: this policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England and 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 Alburgh with Denton or Harleston Preschool Nurseries 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.

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You can find out more about:

• safeguarding children who come from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/children-from-black-asian-minoritised-ethnic-communities

• safeguarding Deaf and disabled children and young people https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/deaf-and-disabled-children

• safeguarding LGBTQ+ children and young people https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/lgbtq-children-young-people

• safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection-schools/safeguarding-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send

• IWF (Internet Watch Foundation) and their work to eliminate child sexual abuse imagery online, preventing the ongoing victimisation of those abused in childhood and making the internet safer for all. https://www.iwf.org.uk

•the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) if you are worried about online abuse or the way that someone has been communicating online. https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/

• The Professionals Online Safety helpline https://saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline Supporting professionals working with children and young people, with any online safety issue they may be having.

The **UK Council for Internet Safety** has produced guidance on Safeguarding Children and Protecting Professionals in Early Years Settings https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-protecting-professionals-in-early-years-settings-online-safety-considerations/safeguarding-children-and-protecting-professionals-in-early-years-settings-online-safety-considerations-for-managers

This document is to help Managers of Early Years settings and the settings DSL (including wrap around care for the early years age group) ensure their online safeguarding practice is in line with statutory requirements and best practice.

Online safety is part of the setting's safeguarding responsibilities, and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should take lead responsibility for any online safety concerns.

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

appointing an online safety coordinator (DSL-Designated Safeguarding Lead)
• providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults
• supporting and encouraging our children 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 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.

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 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
Related policies and procedures.

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:
• child protection including;
• procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing and
• dealing with allegations of abuse made against a child or young person (PCG034 safeguarding children)

• managing allegations against staff and volunteers (PCG030 allegations against staff)
• code of conduct for staff and volunteers (EMP010 code of conduct)
• anti-bullying policy and procedures (EMP022)
• photography and image sharing guidance. (PCG021 mobile phones)
• whistle blowing policy and procedures (EMP014)

Staff employed by the Charity need to be clear on the internal and external reporting mechanism regarding online safety concerns. Staff should always involve the DSL who will be able to support staff and make decisions about how and when to escalate a concern.

Contact details **Online safety co-ordinator Name:**

Alburgh with Denton Preschool
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Karen Edwards karen@alburghwithdentonpreschoolnursery.co.uk
Deputy lead for safeguarding
Jayne Rayner jayne@alburghwithdentonpreschoolnursery.co.uk

Harleston preschool Nursery
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Allie Moss allie@harlestonpreschoolnursery.co.uk
Deputy lead for safeguarding
Jayne Rayner jayne@alburghwithdentonpreschoolnursery.co.uk and child protection

You can call the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 for advice or further information.