Aimhigher London online safety policy statement.

This policy should be read alongside Aimhigher London's procedures on child protection and safeguarding and data protection.

Aimhigher London works with children and families. Its activities include organising livestreaming events online, and providing materials to young people and families which can be accessed online.

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.

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in Aimhigher London's activities.

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:
https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/march/undertaking-remote-teaching-safely
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers

And consultation has taken place with:
https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline/professionals-online-safety-helpline

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 who we work with 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 Aimhigher London's 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 young people, their parents and carers, and their schools 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 and young people safe by:

- working within the safeguarding policies and procedures of the schools we work with and consulting with staff whose responsibility it is to implement them
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online
- 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 protocols which describe how any online activity should be conducted in order to keep young people safe
- ensuring parental consent is given before any young person takes part in any livestreaming activity
- only allowing staff with enhanced DBS checks to host livestreaming events
- 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/young person
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that user names, 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 in line with our data protection policy

- 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)
• 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.