

Online Safeguarding Policy (Student)

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Contents

Section	Section Title	Page Number
1	Scope and Purpose of the Policy	3
2	Policy Statement	3
3	Accountability	4
4	Linked Policies and Procedures	4
5	Equality Impact Assessment	5

1. Scope and Purpose of the Policy

1.1 This policy applies to all students at Blackpool Skills Academy (BSA). All students are expected to employ safeguards effectively and manage risks independently. BSA will provide support and guidance to ensure that our students remain e-safe. The purpose of this policy is to provide a safe, secure, and supportive environment for all students. Any risks to employees must be directed to the Head of Centre.

1.2 The scope of the Online Safeguarding Policy covers the use of the internet and college enabled electronic communication devices including, but not limited to, email, mobile phones, games consoles, PCs, laptops, tablets, and social networking sites.

2. Policy Statement

2.1 BSA recognises the benefits and opportunities which new technologies can offer to learning, teaching and assessment. We encourage the appropriate use of technology in order to enhance skills and promote achievement and BSA will provide support for all students to enhance their online learning potential.

2.2 However, the accessible and global nature of the internet and the wide variety of technologies available mean that we are also aware of potential risks and challenges associated with such use.

2.3 BSA will provide appropriate support and guidance for students so they are aware of associated risks but are able to operate safely in a digital environment.

2.4 BSA will not tolerate abuse or inappropriate use of technology, whether off-line or online. Communications by students should be courteous and respectful at all times and reflect the highest professional standards. Any reported incident of bullying or harassment, or other unacceptable conduct, will fall under the Anti Bullying and Harassment and / or Safeguarding (student) policies and will result in the application of formal interventions. The Employees Professional Boundaries (Code of Conduct) outlines the expectations relating to staff online conduct. The guidelines are included on both the mandatory employee induction sessions and the annual on-line safeguarding refresher training.

2.5 Where conduct is found to be unacceptable, BSA will deal with the matter through BSA's appropriate misconduct procedures. Where conduct is considered illegal, BSA will report the matter to the appropriate external agency.

2.6 BSA has a duty to safeguard its students from on-line exploitation and exposure to extremist ideologies which are likely to promote or provoke violence, in line with the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Prevent Duty 2015 (this includes the Framework for monitoring the Prevent duty in higher education 2018). Digital communications, including email and internet postings made over the College network, are reviewed daily through monitoring software, this provides assurances that all users are safe

and free from exploitation or radicalization. BSA proactively seeks to prevent the creation or sharing of indecent, offensive, illegal or defamatory content or communication, including hate crime and any communication that may cause reputational damage, BSA will forward information on to the relevant external bodies where the need arises, or a potential risk is identified.

3. Accountability

3.1 The Head of Centre is responsible for ensuring that this policy is regularly reviewed updated and accessible and for ensuring that BSA's network is safe and secure and that security software is maintained. These will include the use of enhanced monitoring and filtering, including that required by the Prevent Duty 2015, and protection of firewalls, servers, routers, workstations, to prevent accidental or malicious access of BSA systems and information.

3.2 Every student is responsible for ensuring that they take appropriate measures to keep themselves safe when using BSA-enabled technology.

3.3 The Head of Centre is responsible for implementing disciplinary procedures resulting from inappropriate use of technology.

3.4 Safeguarding Reporters are responsible for responding to, referring, and monitoring any safeguarding issues arising from inappropriate use of the technology.

3.5 The Safeguarding and Wellbeing Steering group will ensure that this policy is in line with government, police, or other external agencies. The Group will also recommend appropriate provision of information or training and support for all employees - including the Operational Group and the Reporters and Managers within it.

4. Linked Policies and Procedures

- Data protection policy
- Safeguarding Policy (Student)
- IT and Information Security Policy
- Employee Disciplinary Policy
- Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy (Student)
- Positive Student Behaviour Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Employee Professional Boundaries Code of Conduct
- Employee Disciplinary Procedure

5. Equality Impact Assessment

UTG is committed to the promotion of equality, diversity and providing a supportive environment for all members of its community. Our commitment means that this policy has been reviewed to ensure that it does not discriminate (either intentionally or unintentionally) any of the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender (including gender identity), race, religion or sexual orientation and meets our obligations under the Equality Act 2010