

Esports Wales

Online Learning Safety Policy

Status: Board-approved policy

Applies to: Children & Young People, Staff, Volunteers, Schools, Education Partners

Owner: Board of Directors

Online Learning Lead: Board-appointed Director / Senior Officer

Safeguarding Lead: Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Review cycle: Annual

Next review due: 12 months from adoption

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how **Esports Wales CIC** (“the Company”) will **protect children and young people during online learning and digital education activity** delivered, supported, or recognised by the Company.

It exists to:

- ensure online learning environments are **safe, appropriate, and well-managed**
 - reduce risks associated with online interaction and digital platforms
 - support schools, parents, and learners with clear safety standards
 - embed safeguarding, wellbeing, and inclusion into online delivery
 - meet legal, safeguarding, and education governance requirements
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2. Scope

This policy applies to:

Policy Number: P1104
Version Number: 001



Esports Wales CIC:
12372413

- online learning platforms and virtual classrooms
- live and recorded online sessions
- esports education, digital skills, and curriculum-linked activity
- hybrid delivery combining online and in-person learning

It applies to:

- children and young people under 18
 - Esports Wales staff and volunteers
 - schools, colleges, and education partners
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3. Core Online Safety Principles

Online learning delivered or supported by Esports Wales is guided by the following principles:

- **Safeguarding First** – welfare overrides convenience or engagement
 - **Education-Appropriate Use** – platforms used for learning, not socialising
 - **Supervision & Oversight** – online spaces are moderated and monitored
 - **Clear Boundaries** – professional conduct applies online as offline
 - **Transparency** – parents and schools understand how learning is delivered
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4. Approved Platforms & Tools

4.1 Online learning must use:

- platforms approved by Esports Wales and/or schools
- systems with appropriate privacy and safety controls

4.2 Where schools provide platforms:

Policy Number: P1104
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- school policies and ICT rules take precedence

Unapproved or informal platforms must not be used for learning delivery.

5. Safeguarding & Supervision

5.1 Online learning sessions must have:

- clear supervision arrangements
- appropriate staff-to-learner ratios
- visible adult presence where possible

5.2 Private, one-to-one online sessions with children must be:

- avoided wherever possible
- approved and risk-assessed if unavoidable
- logged and supervised appropriately

All safeguarding duties apply equally online and offline .

6. Behaviour, Boundaries & Conduct

6.1 All individuals must:

- behave respectfully and professionally online
- follow Codes of Conduct
- use appropriate language and behaviour

6.2 Online conduct must comply with:

- **ESW 0212 Code of Conduct for Staff & Volunteers**
- **ESW 0501 Player Code of Conduct**



Inappropriate online behaviour will be addressed promptly.

7. Online Communication & Interaction

7.1 Online communication must:

- take place only on approved platforms
- be transparent and appropriate
- avoid private messaging between staff and learners

7.2 Direct messaging with children outside approved systems is **not permitted**.

8. Data Protection, Recording & Privacy

8.1 Online learning must comply with:

- data protection and privacy requirements
- consent arrangements set by schools or parents

8.2 Recording of online sessions:

- must be agreed in advance
 - must be stored securely
 - must not be shared without authorisation
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9. Inclusion, Accessibility & Wellbeing

9.1 Online learning must be:

- accessible and inclusive
- adaptable to additional learning needs (ALN)



- mindful of screen time and digital fatigue

9.2 Reasonable adjustments will be provided in line with:

- **ESW 0305 Accessibility & Reasonable Adjustments Policy**
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10. Risk Assessment & Planning

10.1 Online learning activity must be:

- planned in advance
- risk-assessed proportionately

10.2 Risks may include:

- exposure to inappropriate content
 - online harassment or bullying
 - unsupervised interaction
 - safeguarding disclosures
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11. Reporting Concerns

11.1

Any concern relating to:

- online safety
- safeguarding
- inappropriate behaviour or content

must be reported immediately.

11.2

Reporting must follow:



- **ESW 0206 Responding to Safeguarding Concerns Procedure**
- **ESW 0208 Reporting & Escalation Flowchart**

Online concerns are safeguarding concerns.

12. Roles & Responsibilities

12.1 Esports Wales

Esports Wales will:

- set clear online safety standards
 - ensure staff and volunteers are trained
 - support schools with guidance and escalation
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12.2 Schools & Colleges

Schools remain responsible for:

- pupil safeguarding
 - parental consent
 - local ICT and acceptable use policies
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13. Relationship to Other Policies

This policy must be read alongside:

- **ESW 1101 Schools Engagement Policy**
- **ESW 1102 Youth Participation Policy**
- **ESW 1103 Curriculum & Education Quality Policy**



- **ESW 0213 Online Safety & Digital Safeguarding Policy**
 - **ESW 0201–0209 Safeguarding Policies & Procedures**
 - **ESW 0805 Acceptable Use Policy (IT & Platforms)**
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14. Review


This policy shall be reviewed:

- annually
 - following online safety incidents or near misses
 - following changes in technology, guidance, or legislation
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15. Adoption

This Online Learning Safety Policy was approved by the Board of Directors of **Esports Wales CIC**.

Date approved: ___02/03/2026___

Signed (Chair):___  ___

