

ONLINE SAFETY POLICY

Date of Last Review: September 2026

Approval Authority: Performia Academy Director and Performia Online Safety Coordinator

Review Frequency: Twice per year

Location: Website

Date of Next Review: January 2027

1. Rationale

In an era where most young people have extensive access to internet-enabled technology, both at home and in educational settings, it is vital to create a safe online environment. While the internet provides many opportunities for learning and connection, it also exposes children to various risks, including online abuse and cyberbullying.

In recent years, the increase in online activity among young people, particularly during and after the pandemic, has heightened these risks. Reports indicate a substantial rise in online abuse crimes. This underscores the necessity for robust online safety policies and procedures at all educational institutions, including tuition centres like Performia Academy.

2. Introduction

The importance of online safety has been emphasized through various reviews and government initiatives aimed at safeguarding children in digital contexts. The Education and Inspections Act 2006, along with the Online Safety Bill, empowers educational staff to regulate online behaviour and handle online safety incidents effectively, even when they occur outside of the centre's premises.

This policy outlines our commitment to keeping all participants safe while using technology in our tuition centre, adhering to recognized practices and regulations.

3. Legislation and Guidance

This policy complies with the Department for Education's (DfE) safeguarding guidance and encompasses:

- **Teaching Online Safety in Education.**
- **Preventing and tackling bullying and cyber-bullying.**
- **Relationships and sex education.**
- **Guidance on data protection and safeguarding.**

It aligns with existing legislation including the Education Act 2011, which enhances teachers' authority to address cyberbullying and misuse of electronic devices.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Staff Responsibilities

- **Governors and Stakeholders:** Approve and review the effectiveness of the Online Safety Policy.
- **Centre Director:** Ensure overall online safety and delegate day-to-day responsibilities to the Online Safety Coordinator.
- **Online Safety Coordinator:**
 - Develop, implement, and review online safety policies.
 - Conduct training and provide advice for staff and parents.
 - Monitor online safety incidents and report findings to senior management.
- **Teaching Staff:**
 - Report any online issues to the Online Safety Coordinator.
 - Embed online safety into their teaching practice and ensure students understand the implications of their online behaviour.

4.2 Student Responsibilities

- Use digital technology responsibly in line with the centre's behaviour policy.
- Report any online abuse or inappropriate content they encounter.

4.3 Parent/Carer Responsibilities

- Support the centre in promoting good online safety practices.
- Understand their child's online activities and engage with safeguarding initiatives provided by the centre.

5. Educating Students about Online Safety

Students will receive online safety education as part of the curriculum, focusing on:

- Understanding how to use technology safely and responsibly.
- Recognizing online risks and knowing how to report concerns.

6. Cyberbullying

Definition: Cyberbullying involves the repeated, intentional harm inflicted through digital means.

6.1 Prevention and Response

- Educating students about cyberbullying, its signs, and reporting methods.
- Addressing cyberbullying incidents through the established reporting pathways and behaviour policies.

7. Review and Feedback

The Online Safety Policy will be reviewed twice annually, with provisions for immediate reassessment should significant incidents or legislative changes occur. Stakeholder feedback will be actively sought to continuously improve online safety practices.