
Online Safety and Digital Safeguarding Policy

(Parent and Carer Information)

Our Commitment

Future Stars is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children who attend our activities, clubs, and childcare provision. This includes protecting children from potential risks associated with the use of digital technology.

We recognise that technology plays an important role in children's lives and can provide many positive opportunities for learning, communication, and creativity. However, it is also important that children are protected from online risks and inappropriate digital interactions.

Our approach to online safety forms part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities.

How We Promote Online Safety

Future Stars promotes safe and responsible use of technology by:

- Ensuring staff understand their responsibilities regarding online safety and digital safeguarding
- Providing guidance to staff on appropriate communication and professional boundaries when using digital platforms
- Using secure systems to store and manage personal information
- Monitoring and managing the use of digital devices within our provision
- Teaching children age-appropriate expectations around respectful and safe behaviour when technology is used

Staff Use of Technology

All staff and coaches are expected to follow strict professional standards when using technology.

This includes:

- Using work devices and systems appropriately
- Maintaining professional boundaries with children and families online
- Not communicating with children through personal social media accounts or private messaging services
- Following our policies on photography, video recording, and digital communication
- Reporting any concerns about online safety immediately

Staff receive safeguarding guidance that includes digital safety and appropriate use of technology.

Photography and Video

From time to time, Future Stars may take photographs or videos during activities to celebrate achievements or promote our services.

We ensure that:

- Parental consent is obtained before any images of children are taken or used
- Images are used responsibly and stored securely
- Children's names or personal details are not shared publicly alongside images unless explicit permission has been given

Full details can be found in our Photo Taking Policy.

Children's Use of Devices

Where children bring personal devices to our provision, staff will ensure that:

- Devices are used appropriately and safely
- Children understand expectations around respectful and responsible use
- Inappropriate content or behaviour is addressed immediately

In many of our activities, children are encouraged to remain engaged in physical play and group activities rather than using personal devices.

Responding to Online Safety Concerns

Any concerns relating to online safety or digital behaviour are treated seriously.

Where concerns arise, staff will:

- Report the concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- Follow safeguarding procedures in line with national guidance
- Work with parents and, where necessary, relevant safeguarding agencies to ensure children are protected

How Parents Can Support Online Safety

Parents and carers play an important role in helping children stay safe online. We encourage families to:

- Talk openly with children about their online activities
- Encourage respectful behaviour when using technology
- Monitor social media use where appropriate for the child's age

- Report any concerns about online behaviour that may affect children attending our provision

Further Information

Our online safety practices form part of our wider safeguarding framework and align with national safeguarding guidance.

For further information, please refer to our Safeguarding Policy or contact us if you have any questions.