

IMPACT ALTERNATIVE LEARNING

ONLINE SAFETY & DIGITAL SAFEGUARDING POLICY

FINAL LADO LOCK – FULL ELITE VERSION

1. Statement of Intent

Impact Alternative Learning is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Online safety is embedded within safeguarding practice and is treated with the same level of seriousness as physical safeguarding risks. This policy outlines robust systems to identify, assess and respond to online risks.

2. Statutory Framework

This policy is written in line with KCSIE 2025, Working Together 2023, Children Act 1989/2004, Equality Act 2010 and DfE filtering guidance. It ensures compliance with all safeguarding duties placed upon educational providers.

3. Local Context

Impact Alternative Learning supports pupils aged 5–19 with EHCPs and SEMH needs. Many pupils are vulnerable to exploitation, online grooming, peer-on-peer abuse and digital risk-taking behaviour. Online safety procedures are therefore enhanced beyond standard school expectations.

4. Categories of Risk

Content, Contact, Conduct and Commerce risks are actively monitored and taught. Specific risks include exposure to pornography, misinformation, grooming, exploitation, bullying and financial scams.

5. Safeguarding Principle

All online concerns are treated as safeguarding concerns. No issue is minimised or dismissed.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The DSL (Kate Willis) holds ultimate responsibility. Deputy DSL (Kirsty Lampkin) supports monitoring and escalation. All staff must report concerns immediately. IT systems are monitored daily.

7. Filtering and Monitoring

Impact operates strict filtering and monitoring systems. Alerts are reviewed immediately and escalated to DSL. All activity is logged and reviewed.

8. Escalation Framework

Low, Medium and High risk levels are clearly defined. High-risk cases trigger immediate safeguarding action and possible police involvement.

9. Peer-on-Peer Abuse

Online abuse between pupils is treated as safeguarding and addressed immediately.

10. Device Searching

Devices may be searched where there is reasonable suspicion. Two staff must be present and records must be kept.

11. Mobile Phones

Phones are restricted but recognised as unavoidable. Education and safeguarding response are prioritised.

12. Cyberbullying

All incidents are recorded, investigated and escalated where necessary. Victims are prioritised.

13. Education

Pupils are taught online safety through PSHE and structured curriculum delivery including consent, risk and digital footprint.

14. Staff Conduct

Staff must maintain strict professional boundaries and never engage with pupils via personal platforms.

15. Parents

Parents are expected to support safe online behaviour and report concerns.

16. Recording

All safeguarding concerns are logged with full detail, including actions and outcomes.

17. Training

Staff receive annual safeguarding and online safety training.

18. Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually and updated in line with legislation.

19. Linked Policies

Safeguarding, Behaviour, Data Protection and Low-Level Concerns policies are linked.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Online Safety Concern Form

Date, pupil name, nature of concern, action taken, DSL review, outcome.

Appendix B – Cyberbullying Flow

Report → Record → Investigate → Action → Review.

Appendix C – Device Search Record

Reason, staff present, outcome, safeguarding action.

Appendix D – Staff Script

Stay calm, reassure pupil, do not investigate, report immediately.

Appendix E – Parent Guidance

Monitor usage, report concerns, encourage safe behaviour.