# NILE ONLINE SAFETY – Working with under 18's online

## Introduction

It is always NILE's aim to ensure every child at our organisation is safe and protected from harm and to create a safer school culture. This includes our young people receiving online delivery of our courses. Alongside our overarching safeguarding policy there are some key aspects and additional risks to consider when working with young people online.

● There is a tendency for people to behave online in a way they never would face-to-face

● Under 18s (and young adults) are usually more comfortable and savvier using technology

● Under 18s are generally trusting and believe what they read; this makes them more vulnerable to grooming, sharing personal information/passwords, meeting strangers

● Cyberbullying is common; at least 20% of UK under 18s receives unwanted sexual/nasty comments online

● Under 18s often lack well-developed moral and health awareness; they do not understand why sexting is wrong / know it is illegal / realise health implications of spending too long online

## General Procedures

All procedures outlined in our safeguarding policy will be adhered to. Students and staff working online will be provided with a specific behavioural code of conduct in advance of the course which they must sign to agree to. Parental consent must also be given and our safeguarding polices made available to all parties. Parents and students will also be sent a link to video guidance detailing how to remain safe online. Staff will also be provided with training for the online platform and a checklist of safety measures they must implement for live sessions.

## Additional risks to working online

In addition to the forms of abuse outlined in our safeguarding policy and detailed in the appendix there is an additional risk of 'grooming' online.

### Grooming

The NSPCC uses the following definition of grooming:

"Grooming is when someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them"

Characteristics that an abuser will be looking for (this list is not exhaustive):

- Identify children with low self-esteem/lack of confidence (easier to isolate
- Difficulties in relationships with parents (more responsive and less likely to disclose)
- "Scattergun" approach

What tactics do groomers use?

- Identity deception e.g. pretending to be younger
- Giving advice or showing understanding
- Buying gifts
- Giving attention
- Promises of taking them on trips, or holidays (if they meet)
- Isolation from family and friends
- Persuasive rather than coercive

What signs might you see in a person who is being/been groomed?

- Talking about older or new friends they've met online
- Talking about money or gifts they've received online
- Becoming secretive
- Worried about being away from their phone
- Having a new phone, or more than one phone
- Receiving large number of calls or messages
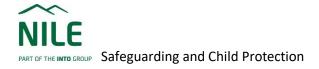
Few children report abuse. Why not?

- don't want their parents/friends to know
- not wrong / serious
- won't be believed
- frightened/ashamed
- protecting abuser
- fear of removal
- don't know they are being abused

It is the duty of everyone in the organisation to pass on any allegations or concerns about a child's welfare without delay. Please follow our Safeguarding Policy and guidance for how to report to a concern.

**Other Relevant Policies**

To underpin the values and ethos of our organisation and our intent to ensure our children/young people are appropriately safeguarded the following policies are included under our safeguarding umbrella;

- Safeguarding Policy
- Major Incident Policy and Emergency Contact Procedure
- Trips and Visits Procedure
- Safeguarding Adults Policy
- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Administration of Medication Policy
- Substance Misuse
- ICT Code of Conduct
- Staff Code of Conduct (face to face and online)

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- Safer Recruitment Policy

These documents can be found in the safeguarding folders located in all NILE offices, on Reception and in the Staffroom. If you would like a copy please contact DSP Lucy Oram on 01603 664473 or email lucy@nile-elt.com.

The overarching safeguarding policy can also be found on our website:
https://www.nile-elt.com/sites/default/files/files/1.%20Safeguarding%20Policy.docx_.pdf

## Useful website links for online safety

ISI Safeguarding Prompts for Remote Teaching
https://www.isi.net/site/downloads/2020-03-27%20Online%20Safeguarding%20Prompts.pdf

Emoji Dictionary – The Children's Society
https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/emoji-dictionary.pdf

UK Safer Internet Centre                    https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

Video Conferencing for Children: Safeguarding and Privacy Overview
https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/video-conferencing-children-safeguarding-and-privacy-overview

## Dealing with Online Abuse

CEOP                         www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

Get safe Online               https://www.getsafeonline.org/social-networking/online-abuse

POSH                         https://swgfl.org.uk/services/professionals-online-safety-helpline/

Internet Watch Foundation    www.iwf.org.uk

Think U Know                 https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/

Revenge Porn Helpline        https://revengepornhelpline.org.uk/

## Prevent

Let's Talk About It           https://www.ltai.info/staying-safe-online/

educate.against.~~hate~~       https://educateagainsthate.com/

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