

# ONLINE SAFETY POLICY

MARCH 2025

## PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

Girls Are Investors (GAIN) works with children and young people as part of its activities. This includes providing resources, training, guidance and mentoring through our programme, events, and activities.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media, or mobile devices
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

For the purposes of the policy, the term children relates to anyone who is under 18 and legally classed as a child. The term young people (person) relates to anyone over the age of 18 who is engaged with GAINs work.

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved GAIN's activities.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy has been drawn up based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England, Scotland, and Wales. Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:

- [online abuse](#)
- [bullying](#)
- [child protection](#)

## WE BELIEVE THAT:

Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.

Children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

## WE RECOGNISE THAT:

The online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges

We have a duty to ensure that all children, young people, and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online

We have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using GAIN's network and devices

Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety

All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

#### GAIN WILL SEEK TO KEEP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE BY:

Appointing a safeguarding lead, deputy safeguarding lead and trustee safeguarding lead, who will be responsible for leading on effective safeguarding policies and procedures for the organisation.

Providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults .

Supporting and encouraging the young people using our service to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others.

Developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child or young person.

Reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly.

Ensuring that usernames, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively.

Ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely through a confidential CRM platform and shared only as appropriate.

Ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their written permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given.

Ensure that any images of children and young people are deleted immediately if requested.

Examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

#### IF ONLINE ABUSE OCCURS, WE WILL RESPOND TO IT BY:

Having clear and robust policies and safeguarding procedures in place, for any concerns that are raised.

Have a dedicated safeguarding lead who has attended training on managing issues relating to abuse or safeguarding of children and young people

Making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders, and our organisation as a whole, into account

Reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term

#### RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

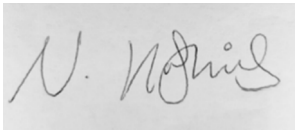
- Safeguarding policy

- Anti-bullying policy
- Behaviour code for adults working with children
- Behaviour code for adults working with young people
- Photography and filming policy

## REVIEW DATE

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'N. Norris'.

Signed:

Date: 10/03/2025