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<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Next review date:</b>	March 2025

## Digital and Online Safeguarding Policy

### 1. Introduction

This Digital and Online Safeguarding Policy outlines the measures and guidelines implemented by Best Practice Network to ensure the safety and well-being of all learners, staff, and stakeholders in the digital and online learning environment. This policy is designed to align with relevant legislation in England, taking a proactive approach to digital safety.

### 2. Legislative Framework

Our digital and online safeguarding practices adhere to the following key legislation in the UK:

- **Children Act 1989 and 2004:** [Link to Legislation](#) - These Acts establish the legal framework for the protection and welfare of children.
- **Education (Online Safety) Act 2021:** [Link to Legislation](#) - This Act outlines the duty of schools to provide a safe online environment for learners and staff.
- **Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):** [Link to Legislation](#) - These regulations govern the processing of personal data, highlighting the importance of data protection and privacy.
- **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015:** [Link to Legislation](#) - This Act places a duty on schools to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism.

### 3. Responsibilities

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** The DSL is responsible for coordinating and overseeing all aspects of online safeguarding at Best Practice Network.
- **Teaching and Support Staff:** All school personnel play a crucial role in promoting online safety and reporting any concerns promptly.
- **Learners:** <https://saferinternet.org.uk/> - Learners are educated on safe online practices, including responsible use of digital tools, and reporting any inappropriate content.

### 4. Online Safety Measures

- **Internet Filtering and Monitoring:** [Link to UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - Implementing robust internet filters and monitoring systems to restrict access to inappropriate content.

- **User Authentication:** [Link to National Cyber Security Centre \(NCSC\) Guidance](#) - Ensuring secure user authentication methods to protect sensitive information.
- **Secure Communication:** [Link to Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\) Guidance](#) - Encouraging the use of secure communication channels and emphasizing data protection principles.

## 5. Reporting and Responding to Incidents

All incidents must be reported to your DSO or DSL [safeguarding@bestpracticenet.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@bestpracticenet.co.uk) . Further information can also be found via the links below:

- **Incident Reporting Procedure:** [Link to Reporting Procedures](#) - Establishing clear procedures for reporting online safety incidents promptly.
- **Support and Intervention:** [Link to NSPCC Guidance](#) - Providing appropriate support and intervention for individuals affected by online safety incidents.

## 6. Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with evolving legislation. Any updates or amendments will be communicated to all stakeholders.

## 7. Conclusion

Best Practice Network is committed to maintaining a safe and secure online learning environment for everyone involved. By adhering to this Digital and Online Safeguarding Policy, we aim to create a culture of responsible digital citizenship and ensure the well-being of our learners.