

Corpus Christi College

Online Safety Policy Statement

Last reviewed: September 2021

Related policies and procedures

This Policy Statement should be read alongside Corpus Christi College Safeguarding Policy.

This Policy Statement has been created using NSPCC online safety guidelines:
(<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1600/online-safety-policy-statement-example.pdf>)

Purpose of this Policy Statement

Corpus Christi College works with those under 18-years of age through its online activities. These include outreach and access activities such as online workshops hosted via Zoom meetings and Zoom webinars (or other similar platforms), virtual school talks, discussions with prospective applicants and virtual Admissions Interviews. The purpose of this Policy Statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people which is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices;
- provide staff, Fellows 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. The Policy Statement applies to anyone involved in Corpus Christi College's activities, including all staff, Fellows, volunteers, and children and young people involved in College activities.

Legal framework

This Policy Statement has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available at the links below:

- online abuse learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse
- bullying learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying
- child protection learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system

We believe that those under 18-years of age:

- should never experience abuse of any kind;
- should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept as safe as possible at all times.

We recognise that:

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities, but it can also present risks and challenges;
- we have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in activities run by Corpus Christi College are protected from potential harm online;
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online when they are engaging with the College through our online events or online content;
- all participants in online activities, regardless of age, disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

We will seek to keep those under 18-years of age safe by:

- reviewing this online safeguarding policy regularly and ensuring that those involved with online events involving participants under 18-years of age are aware of it;
- providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety;
- ensuring that staff leading online activities are familiar with the platform and understand how participants will be using it;
- ensuring personal information about adults and children involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate;
- ensuring that user-names, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively, that is, appropriately and securely;
- defining a clear time and space for online events to take place: e.g. participants should only be able to contact the speakers/contributors and vice versa during the webinar and on the agreed platform, and only institutional contact details such as admissions@corpus.cam.ac.uk or slo@corpus.cam.ac.uk should be shared with participants during the online activity;
- regularly reviewing and updating the security of our information systems;
- examining any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation;
- 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;
- 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;
- where at all possible minimising any one-to-one meetings with children under the age of 18, unless prior consent has been sought from the parents/guardians/carers.

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- following clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse); where there are safeguarding concerns, these will be reported to the College Safeguarding Officer within 24 hours;
- providing support and training for all staff, Fellows and volunteers who are directly involved in College online events on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, harassment, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation;
- 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, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

Contact details

Senior lead for safeguarding and child protection: the Designated Safeguarding Officer

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000