



Safeguarding Policy Statement

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

Virtual Nanny was established to provide virtual childcare workshops (based on the creative arts) to enrich the lives of children in lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic, help parents working from home and juggling childcare and maintain a level of income for the young people providing virtual childcare services. It is hoped that a proportion of workshops can be provided free of charge to potentially vulnerable children and families.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who receive Virtual Nanny services from harm
- to provide virtual nannies, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Virtual Nanny, including staff and operations personnel.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from [nspcc.org.uk/learning](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/learning).

Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents, including:

- Role description for the designated safeguarding officer
- Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- Managing allegations against nannies
- Recording concerns and information sharing
- Code of conduct for nannies
- Behaviour codes for children and young people
- Induction, training, supervision and support

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and nannies
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for staff and nannies through support and training so that all staff and nannies know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- recruiting and selecting nannies safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via our website
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against nannies appropriately
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and nannies, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Contact details

Nominated child protection lead

Name: Elizabeth Rackow

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NSPCC Helpline

0808 800 5000

This policy statement came into force on April 15th 2020

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually

This policy statement and accompanying procedures were last reviewed on April 15th 2020

Signed: *Elizabeth Rackow*

Elizabeth Rackow, Founder and CEO

Date: *April 15th 2020*