



Online Safety Statement

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| Version date | 31-07-25 |
| Approved by | Senior Management Team |
| Policy Group | Information and Marketing |
| Version number | V01 |
| Next review due | August 2026 |
| Key contact | Online Safety Coordinator & Senior Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection Name: Sam Cook Phone: 07868 216222 Email: sam@trenteducation.co.uk |
| External reference points | Key support related to online safety: 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 |

| Version Control | | | |
|------------------|-------------|------|--------------|
| Previous Version | New Version | Date | Update/Notes |
| V1 (31-07-25) | | | |

Introduction

Trent Education Centre (TEC) is committed to protecting people of all ages from harm when they are engaged in any online activity. This includes all work or internet searches conducted by students, tutors, staff and other stakeholders at TEC for TEC or in relation to TEC.

Who is this statement for?

This statement applies to all individuals who are members of our online community, who use internet-enabled devices such as computers, tablets, smart TVs, phones, and laptops. It includes students, staff, visitors, volunteers, contractors and any other stakeholder and their families (including children where applicable) if they are engaged in any online TEC-related activities, including online activities that may be conducted away from TEC premises.

Whilst access to online resources is essential and beneficial, it also poses risks for individuals, their families and friends, especially children but also young people and adults at risk. TEC will take whatever steps it can to ensure that all users in our online community are protected from harm, including all people with the following protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation.

Our Aims

Through this online safety statement, we aim to ensure the following:

- All members of our online community are safe from harm when engaging with online resources at TEC, for TEC or in relation to TEC.
- TEC complies with the latest legislation regarding online safety when engaged in any of our activities and through the delivery of all our services
- TEC provides all present and future members of our online community with complete information about our approach to online safety

Legal framework

This statement has been created in accordance with laws, policies, and guidelines aimed at safeguarding individuals, especially children in England, while also being applicable to all users of our services, particularly in online contexts.

The Online Safety Act 2023

The Online Safety Act 2023 establishes a new UK Government regulation for organisations, which provide people with services, including Trent Education Centre (TEC). This new regulation is aimed at safeguarding individuals in the UK, particularly children and adults at risk, from illegal and harmful online content.

The regulation is designed to guarantee that everyone receives age-appropriate experiences that ensure their online safety, thereby reducing harm and fostering more positive outcomes for internet users. In accordance with this law, TEC assesses potential risks of harm and implements measures to mitigate them.

TEC Policies Related to Online Safety

The following TEC policies are all related to online safety to some extent:

- Safeguarding and Prevent Policy
- Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Sexual Harassment Policy
- Staff Disciplinary Policy
- Ethics Policy
- Student Disciplinary Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Data Privacy Notice and Consent Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Freedom of Speech Policy
- Academic Freedom Policy

Applying Online Safety Measures

Online safety forms a fundamental part of TEC’s safeguarding and protection measures intended to keep all members of our online community safe. This includes ensuring all the measures the table below.

| Topic | Measures |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Leadership | The appointment of an Online Safety Coordinator (OSC) sam@trenteducation.co.uk to oversee the implementation of online safety measures in this Online Safety Statement. |
| Training for staff and students | All staff attend mandatory training about Online Safety to include how to keep themselves and the families (children) safe. |
| | Staff and volunteers are given clear guidelines during induction on how to behave online. |
| | Students are given clear guidelines during induction on how to behave online. |
| Online Agreement | Develop an online safety agreement for use with adults, children, young people and adults at risk and their parents/carers |
| Online Community Training | All members of our online community are given access to this statement as well as policies and procedures that will ensure their safety online. |
| | All members of our online community have access workshops and training to make them aware of the risks to their safety and well-being and the safety and well-being of the whole community. |
| | Open forums, surveys and workshops are conducted, in which all members of our online community are encouraged to raise questions and engage in ongoing discussion regarding the advantages and dangers of the online world. |
| | Ongoing assistance and support are provided for all online users to help keep everyone safe when using social media, and mobile phones. |
| | Every member of our online community is encouraged to respect each other. |
| Emails | All users communicate through email accounts with secure login details, usernames and passwords. |
| Dealing with Online Abuse | The OSC will maintain clear and effective procedures that allow us to appropriately respond to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether involving an adult or a child/young person, in accordance with TEC’s Safeguarding Policy. |
| Data Protection | All online data is confidential and secure in line with data protection legislation such as GDPR as stipulated in our Data Protection Policy , and Data Privacy Notice and Consent Policy . |
| | Personal information on individuals is stored securely and access to it is restricted to authorised personnel in accordance with the TEC Data Privacy Notice and Consent Policy . |
| | Ensure that images of children, young people, adults, those at-risk people and families are used only after written permission has been obtained and only used for the purpose for which consent has been given. |
| Risk Assessments | Risk assessments of social medial platforms and any new technology are conducted by the Online Safety Coordinator and reported to the Board of Governors for approval being utilised at TEC. |
| Updates | All information about online safety is regularly updated. |

Dealing with Online Abuse

TEC ensures that all members of our online community including any non-participating bystanders are protected from online abuse. To this end, the TEC Online Safety Coordinator (OSC) ensures that all staff receive training that will enable them to identify and respond to any examples of online abuse including but not limited to:

- Cyberbullying
- Psychological abuse
- Sexting and online sexual harassment

TEC will follow its Staff Disciplinary Policy if there are any allegations of online abuse by staff. TEC will follow its Student Disciplinary Policy or Academic Misconduct Policy if there are any allegations of online abuse by students.

Online Safety Reviews

The Online Safety Coordinator will ensure that the measures in this Online Safety Statement are monitored and reviewed once every six months and will submit a report with the biannual reviews to the Audit and Risk Committee.

This Online Safety Statement will be reviewed and updated annually. However, the Online Safety Coordinator will remain fully up to date on any changes to regulations and submit any required updates to this statement to the Board of Governors for approval as and when required.

Key Contacts

Online Safety Coordinator & Senior Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection

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Key support related to online safety

- 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