



Educafe CIC – Standards Against Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation (CSEA) Policy

1. Purpose and Scope

Educafe CIC is committed to protecting children and young people from all forms of harm, including sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and related forms of abuse. This policy sets out our commitment and approach to preventing and responding to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSEA) in the organisation's work, including community programmes, events, digital platforms and any activities involving or affecting children and young people. It applies to all staff, trustees, volunteers, contractors, consultants, partners and representatives acting on behalf of Educafe. ([IICSA](#))

2. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy:

- **Child / Young Person:** anyone under the age of 18.
- **Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSEA):** behaviour that harms or abuses a child sexually, including exploitation of a child by an adult or another child where power imbalances are present, involvement in sexual activities in return for something the child needs or wants, and any use of a child in sexual activities or production of child sexual abuse material. This includes abuse online and offline. ([beckfoottrust.org](#))

3. Principles

Educafe CIC adopts the following safeguarding principles:

- The welfare of the child is paramount in all decisions.
- All children and young people have the right to be safe from harm and exploitation.
- CSEA is never acceptable, and we operate a **zero-tolerance approach** to abuse and exploitation.
- We recognise that abuse can occur in any setting, including online, and we take proactive steps to prevent, detect and respond to harm.



- We will work in partnership with statutory agencies, multi-agency safeguarding hubs and relevant authorities in responding to concerns.

4. Responsibilities

Trustees and Leadership

- Ensure that Safeguarding (including CSEA) is a board-level priority.
- Appoint a **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** with appropriate training and authority.
- Ensure this policy and associated procedures are regularly reviewed and updated.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Act as the main point of contact for CSEA concerns.
- Provide advice on safeguarding matters across Educafe activities.
- Ensure timely reporting to statutory agencies and following procedures for referrals.

All Staff, Volunteers and Representatives

- Must read, understand and adhere to this policy and associated procedures.
- Attend relevant safeguarding training.
- Immediately report any concerns regarding CSEA to the DSL.

5. Prevention and Safer Practices

Educafe CIC will:

- Invest in safeguarding training for all staff, trustees and volunteers that includes understanding CSEA risk factors and online harms.
- Embed safeguarding measures in programme design, delivery and any online platform development.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices, including appropriate checks (such as DBS where required) and reference checks.
- Promote a culture where questions and concerns about practice can be raised without fear of reprisal.
- Communicate our commitment to safeguarding to families, partners and the community.



6. Recognising and Responding to Concerns

Educafe CIC recognises that CSEA may be hidden and complex. Signs of abuse may include changes in behaviour, inappropriate sexualised behaviour, unexplained gifts or vulnerabilities that raise concerns. All reports and disclosures must be taken seriously.

Reporting Process

- Any adult who suspects or is told about CSEA must report immediately to the DSL.
- The DSL will assess the concern and, where appropriate, make a referral to local authority children's social care or police.
- Where appropriate, parents/carers will be informed, unless doing so would increase risk to the child.
- Records will be kept confidentially, securely, and shared only on a need-to-know basis consistent with legal duties.

7. Online Safety and Digital Platforms

Educafe CIC recognises digital channels may be used by children and that they carry risk. We will:

- Apply safeguarding by design principles to any digital platform or community space we operate.
- Promote age-appropriate guidance and safety transparency.
- Have clear terms of use and reporting tools for users encountering harmful content.
- Ensure that any content involving children shared by Educafe is safe, consensual and lawful.

8. Confidentiality and Data Protection

Information shared as part of safeguarding concerns will be treated confidentially and in accordance with data protection law. We will only share personal data with statutory safeguarding partners where required to protect a child or young person.



9. Training and Awareness

- All relevant personnel will receive safeguarding training appropriate to their role, refreshed regularly.
- Specific CSEA awareness training will be built into induction for staff and volunteers.

10. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed at least annually and after any relevant incident or change in legislation or best practice.
- Feedback from staff, volunteers, safeguarding partners and community stakeholders will inform continuous improvement.

REVIEW DATE: 10.2.27

Signed:



Name: Janine Ford

Role: Director

Date: 10.2.26

Signed:



Clare Middleton

Name: Clare Middleton

Role: Director & Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Date: 10.2.26