Online Safety Policy Statement

Statement of Intent

This is the Online Safety Policy Statement of the:

Northern Ireland Raspberry Jam
(Registered Charity no. NIC107983)

The Northern Ireland Raspberry Jam Trustee Board is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of technology by all those involved in its activities. This policy ensures that the wellbeing of children and young people is prioritised whenever digital technologies are used, whether in-person or online.

The Trustee Board recognises both the educational value and the potential risks of internet use, and it is committed to supporting children, young people, volunteers, and families in understanding how to stay safe online. The organisation will work in line with relevant legislation and guidance, promoting a culture of awareness, responsibility, and respect.

Volunteers are expected to follow clear guidelines for online behaviour and support young people in doing the same. Procedures are in place to address incidents of inappropriate behaviour or abuse, and all online communications and use of personal data will be handled securely and in line with safeguarding best practices.

This policy applies to all volunteers, children, young people, and adults participating in Northern Ireland Raspberry Jam activities and aims to ensure that all members of the community can engage safely with digital technology.

Signature of Chair:

James Dougan

Name: James Dougan
Email: james.dougan@niraspberryjam.com
Date of Signature: 04/04/2025

Signature of DSO:

Adam Cunningham

Name: Adam Cunningham
Email: adam.cunningham@niraspberryjam.com
Date of Signature: 04/04/2025

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in Northern Ireland. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from:

- https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/northern-ireland
- https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety/preventing-online-abuse-and-harm
- https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-cyberbullying

We believe that:

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

We recognise that:

- The online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however it can also present risks and challenges.
- We have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online.
- We have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using the Northern Ireland Raspberry Jam's network and devices.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, 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 children and young people safe by:

- Providing clear and specific directions to volunteers on how to behave online through our behaviour code for adults.
- Supporting and encouraging the young people attending Northern Ireland Raspberry Jam events to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others.
- Supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online.
- Developing an online safety agreement for use with young people and their parents or carers.

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- 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 or young person.
- Reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly.
- Ensuring that usernames, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively.
- Ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate.
- 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.
- Providing supervision, support and training for volunteers about online safety.
- Examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

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

- Having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse).
- Providing support and training for all volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying or cyberbullying, 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.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to any significant changes in the safeguarding legislation.
For further guidance, contact the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).