



ONLINE SAFETY AND MULTI-MEDIA POLICY

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Harmony House is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and requires all staff to act in the best interests of our children at all times.

Introduction: Harmony House acknowledges the educational, social and entertainment benefits that the internet, mobile phones, computers, laptops, tablets, games consoles and other technologies offer.

As a registered Children's Home, Harmony House complies with The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/541/contents/made>

Harmony House acknowledges the obligations associated with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/> the Children Act 1989, the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010. We also follow current DfE guidance, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d7301b9084b18b95709f75/Keeping_child_safe_in_education_2024.pdf

'Keeping children safe in education' (2024), 'Working together to safeguard children' (2023), HM <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2> Government advice 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' (2015) and the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership's 1 policies, procedures, guidance and protocols.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable and ever evolving, but can be categorised into three areas of risk:

- Content: Where a child is exposed to biased, extreme, harmful, illegal, sexual or violent content; for example: child abuse images, drug abuse, fake news, hate-speech, pornography, radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and websites promoting eating disorders, self-harm and suicide.
- Contact: Where a child engages in harmful online interactions with other users; for example: being bullied or harassed, communicating with strangers, having personal information taken and shared, being pressured into a behaviour e.g., self-harm; and adults posing as children or young adults for the purposes of grooming or exploiting children for criminal, financial, sexual or other purposes.
- Conduct: Where a child behaves in a way that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, creating, sharing and receiving explicit images (e.g., consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing personal information, malicious communications including bullying or harassing others and

generating hateful content; creating biased and misleading advice and downloading music or films illegally.

- Commerce: Commercial risks may fall into anyone of the three categories above. As the following examples illustrate: Content e.g., inappropriate advertising. Contact e.g., commercial advertising, financial information taken and shared (including financial scams and phishing). Conduct e.g., online gambling.

Online safety forms a fundamental part of our safeguarding and child protection measures, and we will ensure that the appropriate action is taken immediately, where we believe a child may be at risk from content, contact, conduct or commerce. Our primary concern, at all times, is the welfare and safety of all members of Harmony House's community including children, staff and visitors. We also have a key role to play in providing online safety education and support to children and identifying those who lack the skills, knowledge, confidence and resilience necessary to keep themselves safe online in and out of Harmony House, so that children who need extra help receive it either in the children's home or through referral to other services. This policy and all associated procedures apply to all staff (including all members of the Remedy support Group Limited (Harmony House's Leadership Team, consultants, agency staff, volunteers, students on placement and any other individual working for, or on behalf of Harmony House), children and visitors and should be read in conjunction with other safeguarding and employment policies including (not an exhaustive list):

- Administration of Medication Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Compliments and Complaints Policy
- Driver and Vehicle Policy
- Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Grievance Procedure
- Health and Safety Policy
- Management of Behaviour: Rewards and Sanctions Policy
- Off-Site Visits Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) Policy
- Runaway, Missing from Home and Care (RMFHC) Policy
- Safe Working Practice Policy (Code of Conduct)
- Self-Harm and Suicide Policy
- Whistle Blowing Policy

Failure to comply with these policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action, which might include summary dismissal (and referral to the

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service> where appropriate) or termination of agreement or contract.

Education and training Whilst regulation and technical solutions are very important, their use must be balanced by educating children to take a responsible approach. The education of children in online safety/digital literacy is therefore an essential part of our online safety provision. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-a-connected-world> describes the digital knowledge and skills that children and young people should have the opportunity to develop at different ages and stages of their lives. It highlights what a child should know in terms of current online technology, its influence on behaviour and development, and what skills they need to be able to navigate it.

A key aspect of our approach is to help children learn to manage their own digital footprint, including how to:

- use privacy settings to maintain some control over who they are sharing with.
- block people with whom they are not comfortable communicating or sharing with.
- remove content they have shared online; and
- report content which other people have posted to get it taken down. In addition, we explore themes such as pornography, consent and the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships, as appropriate.

Clear boundaries are set for the appropriate use of the internet and digital communications and are discussed with children and staff. Children are given the opportunity to explore and discuss online safety issues to build a resilience that equips them to manage their own online safety both in and out of Harmony house. **Positive and responsible technology use is recognised and rewarded**

All staff receive safeguarding, child protection and, where appropriate, online safety training, in accordance with their roles and responsibilities. 2 Digital resilience refers to the emotional resources needed to (1) understand when you are at risk online (2) know what to do to seek help (3) learn from experience (4) recover when things go wrong. Risk and resilience are interrelated, as resilience can only develop through experience of risk and **stressful events**.

Data protection Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred and made available in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018. For further information, see Harmony's house Data Protection Policy.

All staff receive data protection training in accordance with their roles and responsibilities, as part of their induction programme, and appropriate refresher training thereafter.

Harmful content online

Children can come across all sorts of harmful content online, examples of which are outlined in the introduction above. Children can come across it by accident, be shown by a friend or family member or they can deliberately search it out. At Harmony house, we offer direct support to children who have viewed harmful content based, not only on the nature of the incident, but the child's age, experience, strengths, vulnerabilities and circumstances. In addition, we will ensure that children:

- have the opportunity and feel supported to air their views and explore sensitive issues, in a safe and secure environment.
- are supported to explore and manage risks and manage difficult situations online.
- are supported to report and take down content, including helping them to contact providers and/or third parties.
- are aware that what is presented to them online maybe biased, inaccurate, manipulated or misleading and they should consider where the information/images are coming from
- have access to emotional and psychological support; and
- know where they can go to access advice, guidance, support and resources in relation to online matters including Childline and CEOP.

Online pornography

Legal adult pornography is readily available online. Many teenagers will at some point seek out pornography because of adolescent curiosity and most are unlikely to suffer any long-term negative effects. However, there is growing concern that children who routinely access pornography are at an increased risk of:

- normalisation of extreme or risky sexual acts, making them more likely to engage in harmful sexual activity.
- developing discriminatory attitudes, perceiving people (particularly girls and women) as sex objects, rather than caring partners.
- struggling to engage in or enjoy real-life relationships or sexual activity, as pornography has created unrealistic expectations.
- an unhealthy preoccupation with sex, which can interfere with other aspects of their lives.

For more information and advice visit:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/>

Violent content and gaming

Some adult games, especially those which involve players talking to others can expose children to scenes that:

- feature extreme violence, warfare and criminal activity
- show explicit sexual acts, which may glamorise rape and assault.
- use racist, homophobic or sexist language and feature swearing
- depict certain groups, such as women, in derogatory ways

Although parents and professionals will have a view on whether a child is mature enough to play these games, children can be upset or start to normalise violent and aggressive behaviour and/or adopt beliefs associated with the character or game they play. It is also important to remember that children can be groomed or bullied through games and introduced to other content and platforms. In extreme cases, some children experience gaming addiction. For more information and advice visit:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/online-gaming-the-risks/#risks>

Self harm and pro-suicide sites

There are many apps, websites, forums and online chatrooms that work to support children's mental health. However, there are blogs, forums and websites that can reinforce harmful offline behaviours and encourage self-harm and promote suicide. The reasons children visit sites like these can be complex, often indicating broader emotional and wellbeing issues.

Eating disorder sites

The terms "pro-anorexia", or "pro-ana", and "pro-bulimia", or "pro-mia", refer to content, usually online, that promotes the harmful behaviour and mindset that forms part of some eating disorders. The sites and social media where such content is found often say or imply that this behaviour is a lifestyle choice, rather than symptoms of an illness. There is an assumption that people who post pro-ana, pro-mia, or "thinspiration" content are being deliberately malicious, are fully aware that they are misrepresenting symptoms as lifestyle choices, and consciously want to encourage people to develop or continue to have eating disorders. But this is often not the case, as many of the people who post this content are suffering from eating disorders themselves

Radicalisation and extremism

Extremist groups often target children via the internet and social media. Groups can easily share propaganda via online platforms like Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.

Online radicalisation and extremism can pose a significant threat to the well-being and safety of children, which may involve:

- being groomed online or in person.
- exposure to violent/upsetting material and other inappropriate information.
- psychological manipulation
- isolation from friends and family.
- sexual and commercial exploitation.
- encouraging children to act in a way that puts them at risk of physical harm or death.

Harmony house acknowledges its duty under section 26 of the counter-terrorism act 2015 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/contents> (the CTSA 2015) to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty. In meeting our obligations, we:

- assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.
- protect children from being drawn into terrorism, by having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk, and intervene, as appropriate. Identification, assessment and management of such risks form an integral part of Austen Cottage’s referral and admissions procedures, and any concerns would be recorded and addressed, in accordance with national and local guidance.
- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of children and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. We also place a strong emphasis on the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet on our site, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering and monitoring. For further information, see our ‘Child Protection Policy’.

For more information and advice visit:

https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/radicalisation/?gclid=CjwKCAjw9uKIBhA8EiwAYPU S3H5LI6u1SBma_Q13HgGgIf4fp2AwcECPhi1Co_CmAlbHpnWhhnr3KR0cyc8QAvD_BwE

Harmful contact online

Online grooming and sexual abuse Sexual grooming is a process through which an offender seeks to build trust with a child for the purpose of sexually abusing them. Grooming can be

facilitated by technology and most instances of grooming now contain an online component. Offenders build and exploit a trusting relationship with the child and use that trust to exercise manipulation, coercion and control. The following examples illustrate the range of techniques offenders use (not an exhaustive list):

- Bribery – offering rewards and gifts
- Emotional blackmail
- Flattery
- Offering and providing emotional support
- Persistent pressure
- Pretending it is a game such as truth or dare
- Pretending to be someone they are not, such as another child
- Threats Even though a child may never meet the offender face-to-face, children forced, tricked or persuaded to participate in online abuse may be left with long-term trauma from the experience and can suffer just as much harm as those abused by an offender in the 'offline' world. If you become aware of a situation in which a child may have been groomed and/or sexually abused online you must inform Elizabeth Ndegwa Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), the Registered Manager or another Designated Person as a matter of utmost urgency.

For more information and advice visit:

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/online-grooming/>

Online bullying

Online bullying (sometimes called cyberbullying) is bullying that happens online via apps, online games, social networks, websites and photo, text and video messaging. It can happen when using any device and takes many forms

- : • abusive or threatening texts, emails or messages
- posting abusive comments on social media sites
- modifying and/or sharing humiliating videos or photos of someone else
- stealing someone's online identity
- spreading rumours online

- trolling – sending someone menacing or upsetting messages through social networks, chatrooms or games.
 - developing hate sites about another person
 - prank calls or messages,
 - group bullying or exclusion online
 - anonymous messaging
- encouraging a child to self-harm
- Anonymous bullying** Sometimes children can hide their identity when they are online using apps and/or sites This enables them to send messages to others completely anonymously. Anonymous bullying can include posting offensive comments on someone’s profile or sharing negative thoughts. The impact of being bullied anonymously by someone unknown to you can be severe. Children can feel emotionally vulnerable, paranoid and anxious, as they are unaware who the bully is and when they might strike again. In supporting a child who is experiencing anonymous bullying you should:
- offer emotional support and encourage them not to retaliate
 - show them how to block users on websites and apps.
 - encourage them to save the evidence by taking screen shots, printing things off and keeping a record of dates, times and so on.
 - discuss what is and what is not acceptable online.
 - encourage them to report the bullying to their parents and service providers. Online bullying is wholly unacceptable and will not be tolerated at Harmony house All incidents will be addressed in accordance with Harmony house Anti-Bullying Policy.

For more information and advice visit:

https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/?gclid=CjwKCAjw9uKIBhA8EiwAYPU S3HDJT0lkyupUK1GZYUaDN5gBLWBiQa6Mu_U3KIVpDunjEB5roYTxycxCzx8QAvD_BwE

Harmful conduct online

Many children share personal content online including:

- photos and videos of themselves, their friends and things they like
- videos and live streams of themselves talking to camera, performing or gaming
- blogs

- comments on their own and other people's uploaded content

Youth produced sexual imagery

Youth produced sexual imagery is when children share sexual images that they or another child have created themselves. Adults sometimes refer to this as sexting which can include sending sexually suggestive comments. However, children use many other terms for this behaviour such as nudes, which includes semi-nude images. It is important to remember this when talking to children. There are many reasons why a child might share a nude image or video. Some situations are riskier than others. Across the UK it is illegal for anyone, including a child, to make, possess or share an indecent image of someone under 18 years of age. If a child has been pressured, manipulated or coerced into sharing an explicit image of themselves and/or you become aware of a situation in which a child has shared a youth-produced sexual image with an adult you must inform Elizabeth Ndegwa Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), the R I or another Designated Person as a matter of utmost urgency. Be aware that if a child has been groomed, they may not realise they are being abused. For further information and advice see Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and UK Council for Internet Safety (2020) ‘

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/sexting/dealing-with-sexting/>

. **Safe use of digital images** the term “images” refers to photographs (digital and film), ‘video’, DVD and webcam recordings. Staff and children need to be aware of the risks and pressures associated with sharing images and publishing digital images on the internet. Such images may provide avenues for online bullying to take place. Digital images may remain available on the internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term. It is common for employers to carry out internet searches for information about potential and existing employees. Harmony house will inform and educate users about these risks and pressures and will implement policies to reduce the likelihood of any potential for harm.

- Images published on our website, in our brochure, newsletter, or elsewhere, including those released to local and national media, that include children and staff will be selected carefully and will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images.
- Written permission from the child, their parents, carers or other responsible adult (e.g., social worker) must be obtained before images of children (and positive examples of their work) are recorded or distributed in any form. Written permission must also be obtained from staff, as appropriate.
- Where a child does not have capacity to give consent, parents and carers cannot give consent. If an image of a child is to be used without their consent, there must be evidence to show that it was in the best interest of the child.

- Original signed consent forms for children and staff must be stored securely in their personal file and copies forwarded to Remedy support group ltd Marketing and Communications Department (Harmony house parent company), as appropriate.
- Children must be asked if they are happy (if they consent) for their image to be recorded each and every time a photograph or 'video' is to be created. Children should be informed that they can choose whether or not to have their image recorded, how much or little they would like particular images to be shared; and they can change their mind at any time before, during or after the images have been taken.
- Similarly, you must get the permission of anyone in an image, including staff or those who are not part of a crowd and easily recognisable.
- Harmony house staff must only use company equipment to take or store images of children. Unless the Registered Manager has given written permission for personal equipment to be used for setting-related purposes. A senior member of staff must be informed when personal equipment is being used each and every time and for what purpose.
- Care should be taken when taking digital/video images that children and staff are appropriately dressed and are not participating in activities that might bring the individuals or Harmony house into disrepute.
- It is the responsibility of those using images, to check that consent forms are current, and the child or member of staff is still in agreement. Senior staff must also check that there are no outstanding

concerns or issues associated with the individual, which would make the use of their image inappropriate.

- All images created by staff in their capacity as an employee of Harmony house remain the property of Remedy supports group parent company) and copyright rests Remedy supports Group Limited.
- Images taken by authorised external photographers (see below) will be purchased outright as part of the package for unlimited use and thus remain the property of Remedy supports Group Limited. Images taken by any child are the property of the child and relevant consents must be obtained before using the images.
- The hiring of authorised external photographers will be done through Remedy supports Group's Marketing and Communications Department. All external photographers will be briefed on the nature of our business and will be obliged to abide by our safeguarding and child protection procedures. All relevant checks will be conducted, in accordance with our Child Protection Policy.

All images of children and staff must be stored securely on a password-protected device. Any sharing of images must comply with the

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/>

Full names and/or personal details of children and staff will not be published anywhere on our website, in our brochure, newsletter or elsewhere, particularly in association with photographs.

- Given the potential for misuse, children are not permitted to use personal digital cameras or other photographic equipment without the express permission of the Registered Manager.
- Photographs can be taken with the full knowledge and consent of the person concerned, but children must not use, share or distribute images of staff, children or visitors under any circumstances.
- When using digital images, staff should inform and educate children about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images.
- In accordance with guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office, parents/carers are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at Harmony house events for their own personal use (as such use is not covered by the Data Protection Act). To respect everyone's privacy and in some cases protection, these images should not be published/made publicly available on social networking sites, nor should parents/carers comment on any activities involving other children in the digital/video images.

Reporting and recording online safety incidents

Any inappropriate behaviour, associated with online safety and multi-media devices, (confirmed or otherwise) must be reported to senior staff and recorded, as soon as is reasonably possible (and normally within 24 hours of the incident). Staff (and children) should also use the CEOP 'panic button' installed on the desktop of every Harmony house computer, to report incidents of abuse directly to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.

Our response to online safety and multi-media-related incidents always focuses on promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children, and any risks associated with children's use of multimedia/electronic communication are documented and communicated to the adults who work with them. Where appropriate, plans and help will be put in place to reduce the risk of harm or actual harm and there is evidence that these risks are being minimised. If you have any concerns that a child's behaviour may be associated with any of the following:

- child criminal exploitation (CCE), such as county lines

- child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- female genital mutilation (FGM)
- forced marriage
- involvement in gangs
- radicalisation and/or violent extremism
- peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment you must immediately refer the matter to Elizabeth Ndegwa, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), the RI or another Designated Person, in accordance with our 'Child Protection Policy'. If you feel that there is an immediate danger to the life of the individual or others, then call 999. 10. Monitoring online safety incidents the information generated during this process is shared, as appropriate, with:

- Members of the Leadership Team.
- Harmony house Safeguarding Committee.
- Personal tutors and/or Key Workers.
- Remedy support Group Safeguarding Lead.
- Remedy support Group Limited Board, through its Safeguarding Overview Committee. The Safeguarding Overview Committee meets regularly under the chairmanship of a Non-Executive Director and reviews specific incidents and general trends. Online safety is also a standing item under 'Safeguarding and Child Protection' on all relevant staff meeting agendas.

Responding to incidents of misuse

Given the potential for huge diversity in the nature, circumstances, severity and degree of intent, associated with online safety and multi-media incidents, the definition of prescribed responses in this policy document is considered inappropriate. However, since many incidents of misuse will reflect situations in the off-line world, they will be addressed in accordance with the aims, principles and practice outlined in one or more of the other safeguarding, behaviour and employment policies.

Behaviour support plans and risk assessments

Where a child has been involved in an online safety or multi-media incident, new information will be recorded, as appropriate. Relevant information will be communicated to other staff, as soon as reasonably possible, and the individual risk assessment and/or behaviour support plan will normally be reviewed and redistributed (where appropriate) within 72 hours. All relevant staff are obliged to familiarise themselves with the current risk

assessment and behaviour support plan, for every child they are likely to have responsibility for educating, engaging, supporting or supervising. All risk assessments and behaviour support plans are shared with children to enable them to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to manage their own behaviour effectively

Acceptable use agreement and/or multi-media contract

The purpose of the acceptable use agreement and/or multi-media contract is to provide children with a clear and concise summary of our expectations, and to describe, where appropriate, the potential consequences of any breach. All staff are required to read, sign and abide by Harmony house Safe Working Practice Policy (Code of Conduct), which includes reference to a number of issues associated with online safety and multimedia

Seeking the views of children, parents, carers, local authorities and staff Regular enquires are made of all children as to how safe they feel at Harmony house and ways in which services and outcomes can be improved. The views of parents, carers, local authorities and staff are also sought through existing mechanisms for consultation and feedback. Records are kept of these enquiries and any actions taken

Safeguarding and child protection Access to the internet via Harmony house hardware will only be provided on a high adult-to-child ratio, under the supervision of staff who have undertaken safeguarding, child protection and online safety training. We currently use a 'locked down' system, which means inaccessible sites may only be opened upon request from staff or children for legitimate reasons. All computers at Harmony house face into the room, to ensure staff can effectively monitor children's online and offline behaviour, at all times; and every PC has a CEOP 'panic button' on the desktop which enables staff and children to report incidents of abuse, directly to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.

Harmony house will always consider whether a child's behaviour gives cause to suspect that they are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm; or whether their behaviour might be the result of unmet educational or other needs. All child protection concerns will be addressed in accordance with our 'Child Protection Policy'.

Online safety outside of Harmony house premises A decision whether or not to intervene in online safety incidents outside of our premises will be made by the Registered Manager

Police involvement We are committed to minimising the criminalisation of children's behaviour and endorse the view that children should not be charged with offences resulting from behaviour within a children's home that would not similarly lead to police involvement if it occurred in a family home. Careful, child-centred decision-making is made about reporting their behaviour to the police, though appropriate notifications are always made and clearly documented. If the behaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a

member of the public, the police should always be informed. A decision whether or not to involve the police in an online safety incident will be made by the Registered Manager

Complaints Children, staff, parents, carers, and any other adult with parental responsibility (e.g., social worker) or other local authority representatives are all able to complain to Harmony house if they are unhappy with any aspect of the education or care provided. All complaints are taken seriously and will be dealt with without delay. For further information, see our 'Compliments and Complaints Policy'. All complaints concerning allegations of child abuse will always be addressed in accordance with our 'Child Protection Policy'

Implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review The designated senior member of staff with overall responsibility for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 'Online safety and Multi-Media Policy' is the Registered Manager. The designated member of staff is also responsible for ensuring that all children, staff, parents, carers and placing local authorities are aware of our policy. Additional support would also be provided to any parent or significant person, wishing to know more about the policy and procedures outlined above

This policy document will be reviewed and publicised in writing, at least annually and, if necessary, more frequently in response to any significant incidents or new developments in national, local and organisational policy, guidance and practice.

The proprietor, Remedy support Group Limited, will also undertake an annual review of the home's policies and procedures relating to safeguarding, and ensure that all duties have been discharged in accordance with current legislation, regulations and statutory guidance; as well as local authority procedures and practice, including the relevant Local Safeguarding Children Partnership(s). The proprietor stringently holds senior leaders to account for all aspects of the children's home's performance through robust systems of governance, reporting and monitoring.

Further information about online safety

New opportunities and potential risks Technology offers extraordinary opportunities for all of society - opportunities for learning, play, communication, skill development, creativity and for having fun. However, the use of these technologies can also put children at risk within and outside the setting. Some of the dangers they may face include:

- access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images or other content.
- unauthorised access to/loss of/sharing of personal information.
- the risk of being 'groomed' or radicalised, by those with whom they make contact on the internet.
- the possibility of arranging to meet strangers.

- the sharing/distribution of personal images, without an individual's consent or knowledge.
- inappropriate communication/contact with others, including strangers.
- the risk of engaging in sexually damaging conversations and video interactions.
- cyberbullying.
- access to unsuitable video/internet games.
- an inability to evaluate the quality, accuracy and relevance of information, on the internet.
- plagiarism and copyright infringement.
- illegal downloading of music or video files; and
- the potential for excessive use, which may impact on the social and emotional development and learning of the child. Many of these risks reflect situations in the off-line world and it is essential that this policy document is used in conjunction with other relevant policies including Anti-Bullying, Child Protection and Equality and Diversity. It is also important to acknowledge that the 'probability of risk' is based on a complex interaction between a child's age, experience, strengths, vulnerabilities and circumstances and the properties of the specific technology. A good risk assessment will consider what effect technology has on a child but will place a greater emphasis on considering what the child brings to the technology that might increase the likelihood of harm. As with all risks, it is impossible to eliminate online safety risks completely; and that is why it is essential, to develop children's risk identification, assessment and management skills, so that they have the confidence and resilience to deal with such risks, if and when they arise.

Roles and responsibilities

Registered Manager The Registered Manager has a duty of care for ensuring the safety (including online safety) of all members of Harmony house though day to day responsibility for online safety will be delegated to the Online Safety Lead. The role of the Registered Manager is to:

- ensure that Harmony house network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible and that the approved policies and procedures are implemented.
- ensure that children are safe from illegal, inappropriate or harmful content when accessing the internet on our site, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering such that 'overblocking' does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regard to online teaching and safeguarding.

- ensure that all staff have access to, are aware of and follow Harmony house Online Safety and Multi-Media Policy.

- ensure that the Online Safety Lead and all other relevant staff receive suitable training, in accordance with their roles and responsibilities.

- liaise with the Online Safety Lead on a regular basis, providing guidance and support, as appropriate. • support the Online Safety Lead in managing serious online safety and multi-media incidents/allegations involving staff and children.

- monitor, analyse and report on the levels and frequency of online safety and multi-media incidents to Harmony house Safeguarding Committee and other interested parties, as appropriate.

- notify Harmony house Safeguarding Lead about ALL child protection concerns that warrant discussion with parents, carers or an external agency/professional, including the local multi-agency safeguarding hub (or equivalent), Designated Officer, police or children's social care including the allocated social worker; within 24 hours of the concern being reported; and record all relevant information on Harmony house Safeguarding Return document.

- maintain a record of all cause for concern' issues and child protection concerns, in accordance with requirements set down by Remedy support group Ltd Safeguarding Overview Committee. As the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), the Registered Manager, has also attended training in online safety and is aware of the potential for serious child protection issues to arise from:

- sharing of personal data.

- access to illegal/inappropriate materials.

- inappropriate on-line contact with adults/strangers.

- potential or actual incidents of grooming, exploitation and radicalisation.

- online bullying. Additionally, as per the KCSIE 2023 update, Designated Safeguarding Leads must also be aware of/responsible for:

- filtering and monitoring processes in place within the home; • ensuring that staff are aware of the filtering and monitoring processes within the home

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) (and all other Designated Safeguarding Persons) are aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safety allegation made against a member of staff.

Harmony house policy on children's use of the internet and mobile technology

Mobile phones Children are permitted to use personal mobile phones at Harmony house subject to risk assessment and agreement by parents, carers or another responsible adult (e.g., social worker). All children bringing a personal mobile phone to Harmony house are obliged to read, sign and abide by the multi-media contract for children. Harmony house does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to any personal mobile phone or associated accessories, unless placed in the care of our staff.

ICT network and email When joining Harmony house, all children will be allocated a username and password for access to the ICT network (Where appropriate and email system), subject to risk assessment and agreement by parents, carers or another responsible adult (e.g., social worker). All children are obliged to read, sign and abide by Harmony house multi-media contract for children.

3.3 Social networking websites and apps Access to social networking websites and applications will only be provided via Harmony house network, subject to risk assessment and agreement by parents, carers or another responsible adult (e.g., social worker) while under the supervision of staff who have undertaken safeguarding, child protection and online safety training. All children are obliged to read, sign and abide by Harmony house multi-media contract for children. Equipment and storage

Personal computers (PCs), laptops and tablets The possession and use of personal computers, laptops and tablets will be permitted subject to risk assessment and agreement by parents, carers or another responsible adult (e.g., social worker). All children are obliged to read, sign and abide by Harmony house multi-media contract for children. Harmony house does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to any PCs, laptops or tablets, unless placed in the care of our staff. Entertainment

Games consoles and hand-held devices e.g., Nintendo Switch The possession and use of games consoles and other hand-held devices will be permitted subject to risk assessment and agreement by parents, carers or another responsible adult (e.g., social worker).

Harmony house does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to any games consoles or handheld devices, unless placed in the care of our staff.