Selby CoderDojo

Safeguarding Policy

This policy was written with guidance from the NSPCC

This policy was created in **February 2024**

This policy was last updated in **March 2025**

This policy is due for review no later than **March 2026**

Selby CoderDojo is committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all young people who participate in our coding and digital making activities. This Safeguarding Policy outlines our commitment to the well-being of young people and the steps we take to ensure their safety.

1. Purpose

a. The aim of Selby CoderDojo is to encourage young people to engage in coding and digital making, following the principles of the CoderDojo Foundation & Charter. We focus on a culture of open learning, where young people progress at their own pace and explore areas of interest that resonate with them. We're keen to reach people who are underrepresented in STEM, including those who are educationally underserved, experiencing disadvantage, or who simply don't have access to a computer at home

b. The purpose of this policy is to:

    i. **Protect Young People:** To ensure the safety and well-being of all young people participating in Selby CoderDojo activities.

    ii. **Prevent Harm:** To prevent harm by promoting a safe and secure environment where young people can learn and engage in coding and computer science activities.

    iii. **Guidance and Compliance:** To provide guidance to all volunteers and participants regarding appropriate behaviour and the procedures to follow in the event of concerns or disclosures.

c. This policy applies to anyone acting on behalf of Selby CoderDojo, including the Dojo team, the board of trustees, and anyone delivering activities on our behalf.

2. Framework

a. This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England.

b. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from nspcc.org.uk/childprotection.

3. We believe that:

a. Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.

b. 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.

4. We recognise that:

a. The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.

b. Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

c. 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.

d. Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues

e. Extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

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

a. Valuing, listening to and respecting them.

b. Appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people.

c. Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.

d. Recruiting and selecting volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made and safeguarding training is undertaken.

e. Recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.

f. Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions.

g. Making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.

h. 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.

i. Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment.

j. Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.

k. Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

l. Building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

6. Contact Details:

a. **Nominated safeguarding lead:**

   i. Sarah McAtominey

   ii. sarah@selbycoderdojo.org.uk

b. **Dojo Champion & Chair of Trustees**

   i. John McAtominey

   ii. john@selbycoderdojo.org.uk

7. Reporting concerns

a. You can report a concern at any time to any of the following organisations:

    i. Selby CoderDojo

        1. Speaking to any member of our volunteer team

        2. sarah@selbycoderdojo.org.uk

        3. john@selbycoderdojo.org.uk

    ii. Raspberry Pi Foundation

        1. www.raspberrypi.org/safeguarding

        2. 0800 1337 112

    iii. NSPCC

        1. https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/

        2. 0808 800 5000

        3. emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk

    iv. North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

        1. https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/about-us/worried-about-a-child/

        2. 0300 131 2131

        3. social.care@northyorks.gov.uk

    v. Police

        1. https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/how-to-report-possible-child-abuse/

        2. If you suspect someone is in immediate danger, call 999 now

        3. For non-emergency concerns call 101

b. Where your concern is about a FEAST school holiday activity you can also contact **North Yorkshire Together** who manage the FEAST programme:

    i. https://northyorkshiretogether.co.uk/contact-us/

    ii. hello@northyorkshiretogether.co.uk

    iii. 01845 980141