

Meadow Arts

Digital Safeguarding Policy

This version: September 2023
Date of next review: September 2024

Digital Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

Meadow Arts is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all individuals, particularly children, young people, vulnerable adults, and community participants, who engage with our contemporary visual art activities, both in-person and online. This Digital Safeguarding Policy outlines our commitment to promoting a safe environment in all our digital interactions, programmes, and initiatives.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals associated with Meadow Arts, including staff, volunteers, artists, participants, partners, and any third parties involved in our activities.

3. Principles

- **Safety First:** The safety and well-being of all individuals, especially those who are vulnerable, is our top priority. We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe online environment.
- **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion:** We uphold our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion in both physical and digital spaces. Discrimination, harassment, and exclusionary behaviour will not be tolerated.
- **Consent:** We ensure that all participants, especially children and vulnerable adults, have given appropriate consent for their engagement in digital activities. Parental/guardian consent is obtained for participants under the age of 18.
- **Privacy:** We respect the privacy of all individuals and handle personal data in accordance with relevant data protection laws.
- **Professionalism:** All digital interactions and communications are conducted with professionalism, respect, and adherence to our organisational values.

4. Digital Communication and Engagement

- **Online Conduct:** We expect all individuals to engage in respectful, courteous, and appropriate communication during online events, discussions, and collaborations.
- **Moderation:** Our digital platforms and online events will be monitored and moderated to ensure a safe environment and to promptly address any inappropriate behaviour.
- **Privacy Settings:** We take appropriate measures to safeguard personal information shared during digital interactions, and we encourage participants to adjust their privacy settings as needed.
- **Photography and Recording:** Prior consent is obtained from individuals before capturing, sharing, or recording their images or contributions in online activities.

5. Digital Engagement with Vulnerable Groups

- **Supervision:** When engaging with children or vulnerable adults online, we ensure appropriate levels of supervision and support are in place.

- **Secure Platforms:** We use secure and trusted platforms for online engagement, communication, and sharing of content.
- **Restricted Access:** Where appropriate, we restrict access to online sessions and materials to authorised participants only.
- **Reporting:** Participants are informed about the procedure for reporting any concerns or incidents related to digital safeguarding.

6. Training and Awareness

- **Education:** We provide training and guidance to our staff, volunteers, artists, and partners on digital safeguarding, including recognising signs of vulnerability, appropriate conduct, and reporting procedures.
- **Community Awareness:** We raise awareness among our online community about our Digital Safeguarding Policy, encouraging responsible behaviour and reporting of concerns.

7. Reporting and Responding

- **Incident Reporting:** Any concerns, incidents, or breaches of this policy are reported promptly to the designated safeguarding lead within Meadow Arts.
- **Support:** We provide support to those affected by any online safeguarding concerns, ensuring their well-being is our priority.
- **Responsive Action:** We take appropriate and immediate action in response to any safeguarding concerns, following our established procedures and collaborating with relevant authorities.

8. Review

This Digital Safeguarding Policy is subject to regular review to ensure its effectiveness, relevance, and compliance with changing regulations and best practices.

By adhering to this Digital Safeguarding Policy, we aim to create a safe and inclusive digital environment that aligns with Meadow Arts' commitment to delivering high-quality, ambitious art while ensuring the safety and well-being of all individuals, especially those who may be vulnerable or at risk.