

Online Safeguarding Information for Young People

This info sheet has been created for all young people who take part in EyPIC activities online. **Please make sure you read this, so you understand how to keep yourselves safe online.**

Hey there!

As you guys all know, Corona Virus (or COVID-19) has had a huge impact on all our lives. The spread of the virus has led to big changes that you are all having to adapt to very quickly, for example, you now have to study at home rather than at school or college and you are not currently able to take part in all the activities you would normally do with your friends like socialising, sports, bike riding, dancing and attending our youth club. We recognise that this is a really tough time for you guys and we want to continue to be there for you, offer you the support you need and make sure you are still enjoying a social life and learning new fun stuff.

We have been thinking a lot about which apps and technology we will use to keep working with you and what our youth sessions will look like. EyPIC has decided to use Zoom to keep in touch with you and to run our online sessions. We are certain that most of you have heard of this app already and might already be using it to chat with your friends. It's pretty simple to use but there are a number of things we want you to be aware of before you join us online.

Online safe space:

We need you all to know that the online space we have created for us all needs to be used in the same way that we use our actual youth club building. The working agreement (rules) we have on the wall in the youth centre also applies to the sessions we deliver online, here is the list of rules we have all agreed to abide by...

1. Have fun
2. Be safe
3. Be kind
4. Respect each other and people's belongings
5. Listen to each other and staff

We are adding **5 new rules** to this list so we can ensure **everyone is safe** when taking part in our online activities.

1. Bullying or being unkind to others will not be tolerated. If this occurs, both the young person being bullied and the perpetrator will talk to the support worker

after the session to discuss what happened, and hopefully resolve the issue. Parents/carers will be contacted when necessary. If bullying is witnessed, it should be reported to the support worker as a private message.

2. Do not use profanities. If this occurs, a member of staff will speak to you after the session. If profanities are used repeatedly, you may be removed from the session and your parents will be contacted.
3. Do not send offensive, violent, sexual, or any other form of inappropriate material to young people or staff, or expose yourself online. If this occurs, you will be removed from the session and your parents will be contacted. If the material is of a violent or sexual nature, the police and social services may need to be contacted.
4. You must not share invite links for our sessions with people who do not attend the youth club normally. If you have a friend who wants to join, they must get in touch with a member of EyPIC staff by phone or email [0208 366 3677 or youngcarers@enfieldcarers.org] because they will need their parents to complete a registration and consent form before they take part in our activities.
5. Do not, under any circumstances, record or screen shot online sessions. Doing this is a serious breach of the Data Protection Act 2018 and will lead to parents/carers being notified.

Online Bullying:

We do not tolerate bullying of any kind at EyPIC. Bullying should not happen to people in person or online. If you experience bullying, or you witness it, you must tell a youth worker or your parents immediately so we can sort the issue out and provide the necessary support. We must remember that COVID-19 means we are having to do everything online and we all need to do our bit to make sure online spaces feel like safe spaces for everyone.

Safeguarding information:

'Safeguarding' is probably a word you have all heard before. It is something that all youth workers have to do to make sure you are safe from harm. We undertake special safeguarding training to make sure we understand the things we need to look out for to keep you safe.

'Child abuse' is a term that professionals working with children and young people use to describe lots of different sorts of abuse. Here is a list of the most common types of abuse young people face:

Neglect: This is where parents/carers don't look after children properly, for example they don't provide them with the food, shelter, love or care the child needs to be healthy and happy.

Physical Abuse: This means physical violence is happening to a child/young person. This includes things like punching, kicking, slapping, pulling of hair and burning.

Sexual Abuse: This means the child/young person has been forced or tricked into sexual activity by an adult or a peer. This includes being physically touched like rape or inappropriate sexual touching of private parts of the body; and times when they are not physically touched, but are being sexualized, for example, having naked photos taken of them, being encouraged to send nude photos to someone/having nude photos sent to them or being talked to in a sexual way online.

Emotional Abuse: This means an adult is making a child/young person feel bad about themselves, worthless and unloved. An example of this could be ignoring and never speaking to the child, calling them names or telling them they are worthless over and over again.

It is a youth worker's job to look out for you and make sure you are OK even when you are not in the youth club.

'Confidentiality' – this means to keep things confidential or private. When it comes to online sessions the same rules apply when it comes to confidentiality. If you tell us that you or someone you know is experiencing abuse of any kind, we will not be able to keep that information confidential. This is because we have **a duty of care** to protect you from any harm and a big part of protecting you is reporting abuse to social services and, in extreme cases, the police.

If you report abuse to us in person or online (whether it is happening to you, someone in your family, a friend or just someone you know), the following things will happen:

1. The youth worker will make some notes after you have spoken and report this to the safeguarding lead in their organisation.
2. The safeguarding lead and youth worker may want to speak to you together at some point.
3. If the thing you have told us means that either you, or someone else, is in immediate danger the safeguarding lead will contact social services and, in some cases, the police.
4. If the thing you have told us does not involve someone being at immediate risk the safeguarding lead will compile a report and contact the local safeguarding board to report their concerns.

5. The safeguarding lead and the youth worker you reported to will keep you in the loop as much as possible with what will happen next and will be there if you need someone to talk to.

Using Zoom safely

When you are using Zoom to take part in EyPIC activities, there are a number of important things you need to think about first. They are:

Using online apps and keeping safe:

Many of you will have used the internet to contact friends and family or have spoken to your friends when playing online games like Fortnite. It's important that when you are online you do not talk to anyone that you do not know in real life. As you probably know, there are some nasty people out there who use the Internet to groom and trick you into talking to them about your private stuff and then once they have the information, they then threaten to tell everyone the secrets you shared with them. **To make sure you are 100% safe online only talk to people who you have met in person and feel comfortable with.**

Setting up a Zoom account:

EyPIC will be using Zoom to work with you guys for the time being, until the COVID-19 situation has calmed down and we can return to working in the youth centre.

You will need to download the app and create your own account.

You can download Zoom from here: www.zoom.us/download

When registering **please use your actual names** so we can clearly identify you. If you want to upload a profile picture, that is fine, but make sure it is just one of your face or head and shoulders and that you are not wearing anything revealing. If your profile picture is unsuitable, we will ask that you change it before you take part in our online activities.

Before you take part in a video call you will need to figure out where is the best place to set it up in your home. We recognise that you will want some privacy and because of this may opt to set this up in your bedroom. If you are using your bedroom; we **strongly recommend** that you use the function where you can change or blur your background, this is because we believe your bedroom should stay a private space.

The last thing you need to think about before you go online for a video call is to check that you are wearing the right sort of clothing and nothing too revealing. You wouldn't wear your pajamas to the youth club so you mustn't wear them for our online sessions

either. Make sure you are dressed appropriately. If you are not wearing suitable clothes, the youth workers will remove you from the group and ask you to put something more suitable on.

Have fun and keep us posted on how you are finding working online

We know that it is not ideal having to meet us online and that talking in person is much more fun and meaningful, however, we think it's better to speak online than not at all and we really want to support you guys through this challenging time.

We would like your feedback on how the online way of working is going for you and will be asking you if there is anything else we could be doing to support you. So, keep in touch with us!