

Online Safeguarding Guidance for Parents/Carers

This is an information sheet for parents/carers of young people who attend EyPIC. **It aims to provide you with everything you need to know regarding safeguarding online.**

EyPIC & Safeguarding:

We at EyPIC are committed to safeguarding the children and young people we work with and wanted to assure you that this does not change when we work with them in an online capacity. We have undertaken in-depth safeguarding risk assessments for the online applications (apps) we will use with young people. These assessments enabled us to put in place safety measures that will protect young people when they are online with us. If you would like to see a copy of our safeguarding risk assessments, please contact EyPIC staff on youngcarers@enfieldcarers.org

COVID-19 has affected us significantly, it has impacted on many elements of our lives; the way we work or learn, the way we exercise, our social lives and our mental wellbeing to name but a few. It is important for us, as adults caring for young people, to consider where *they* are at in their lives and what they need at this time to continue to grow and develop. We believe it is vital for young people to have a space to socialise, learn and figure out who they are as young adults. This is why EyPIC is moving the youth work we used to do in person, online so we can continue to support young people during this challenging time.

So, with all this in mind we have created a number of fun projects that will take place online; they aim to encourage young people to talk with their friends and youth workers and, in turn, help prevent loneliness and/or feelings of isolation at this difficult time.

What you need to know as parents or carers:

How we safeguard your child:

EyPIC will safeguard your child while they are online with us by:

1. Undertaking a detailed safeguarding risk assessment of the apps we will use.
2. Ensuring that staff running sessions have up to date DBS checks and have taken part in relevant safeguarding training.
3. Maintaining a minimum of two youth workers or volunteers running an online session.
4. Ensuring that both parents/carers and young people understand the different safeguarding implications for delivering youth work online through creating information and guidance documents.
5. Ensuring that young people taking part in online sessions are aware of the behaviour expectations or rules for taking part.
6. Having robust procedures in place for monitoring who is joining an online session.

7. Sending invites to sessions at the last minute so they cannot be shared in advance of the session.
8. Ensuring that all staff and volunteers have read and agreed to the 'Staff and Volunteer Code of Conduct for Online Sessions'.
9. Turning off certain features on the apps we use when they are not needed to prevent any unnecessary incidents.
10. Continuing to adhere to our robust and detailed safeguarding policy (If you would like a copy of this please contact EyPIC staff on youngcarers@enfieldcarers.org)

Please take the time to also read the guidance sheet we have created for young people as this will give insight as parents/carers for our behaviour expectations of your child.

Online applications:

EyPIC have undertaken research into the different apps available that we could use to keep in touch with the young people we work with and the one we have decided to use is called Zoom.

How to get started with Zoom:

If you are happy for the child in your care to use this app to take part in positive activities with us, then please visit www.zoom.us/download where you can download the app and learn more about how it works. The child in your care may already have the app on a device. We recommend you download it too, so you also understand how it works.

You might want to access the Zoom website for support in downloading and using Zoom: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697>

We can use Zoom in a number of ways, these are...

- 1. Video calling**
- 2. Audio calling**
- 3. A chat function where people can upload instant messages during a call**

We will be using all three of these functions to stay connected with young people and deliver positive activities, although we won't necessarily use them all at the same time.

Things to consider when setting up and using Zoom:

Profile pictures:

If you and your son/daughter are OK with using a photo, please make sure that the photo is of their head or head and shoulders, with a plain background. If you don't want to use a photo that is also acceptable.

Setting up the space at home for taking part in online activities:

As we mentioned earlier in this document, it is important for young people to have some privacy when taking part in youth club activities. Remember youth clubs are a space designed for young people. Your son/daughter may decide to use their bedroom as the space to use to join us online. We have provided the young people with instructions on how to set up their space before they join us online, for instance, we strongly recommend that they blur their background, so that their background remains a private space (please see the young people's information sheet for more information).

Turning functions off if they are not required:

For some of our online activities your son/daughter might only need to use one function of Zoom. For example, if we, as an organisation, wanted to get in touch to share some information quickly, then we may turn off the chat function between the participants to prevent distractions.

Supervision when your child is using Zoom:

Some parents/carers may want to supervise their child when they are online. Although we understand why you may want to do this, we believe that the online space we have created should be viewed in the same way our physical youth club is viewed; as a space for young people. If parents/carers want to know what sessions we are running and what each session will involve, please get in touch with EyPIC staff on youngcarers@enfieldcarers.org or 07809332106 and they will send you a detailed timetable that outlines our activities.

Your child's clothing during video calls:

We have made it clear in the young people's information sheet that they must dress appropriately for online video calls. We understand that young people are at home and in their comfortable clothes during the COVID-19 lock down, however we ask that young people do not wear their pajamas or revealing clothing for our online video meet ups. If they are wearing unsuitable clothing a youth worker will ask them to get changed before they enter the session with the rest of the group. If they do not agree to this, they will not be permitted to join the session.

Behaviour Agreement & setting boundaries:

EyPIC has sent you and your son/daughter a document entitled '**Online safeguarding information for young people**'. It is important that you and your child read this document as it outlines our behaviour expectations for them when they take part in activities. It is essentially the same rules we have in place at our physical youth centre, plus 5 additional, online specific, rules to ensure they are safe from harm when they are under our supervision.

Thank you for taking the time to read this guidance document. We hope that it has been helpful. If you have any questions or thoughts that you'd like to share with us, please get in touch by emailing EyPIC staff on youngcarers@enfieldcarers.org