



**Association of Adult and Child  
Online Safety Specialists**

**Code of Conduct**

**Version: 1.1**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018**

## **Introduction**

As an association of professionals working within the broad umbrella of child protection, the way in which we conduct ourselves, what we do and how we do it reflects on us all as individuals, professionals and as an Association. We are committed to working with honesty, integrity and putting the needs of our audiences at the forefront of everything we do.

## **Our Values**

- Respect – the world is a diverse place and we treat everybody as individuals in their own right.
- Integrity – we are consistent in what we do. We are open, honest and take responsibility for our actions.
- Professionalism – we are committed to delivering the highest standards of work.

## **Review**

This Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually. All members of The Association of Adult and Child Online Safety Specialists (AACOSS) are required to read and sign the Code of Conduct:

- When they become a member.
- Annually at one of the 2 pre-arranged mandatory meetings.

Any member of the Association can suggest changes or amendments to this code, which will be discussed and put to the vote at the next mandatory meeting, or electronically if urgent.

## **Investigating Breaches of our Code**

Should it come to light that there has been a potential breach of the code by any member, the breach will be investigated and discussed by the Founding Members with the appropriate action taken, which may include revoking membership to the Association.

## Code of Conduct

This code of conduct is intended for all AACOSS members and sets out the standards that members are expected to follow. Whilst not exhaustive it sets out the main principles in order to provide a legal, professional and ethical approach to the work we do individually, offline and online.

- **The law** – We will work to the law of the United Kingdom and keep ourselves up to date on areas of the law related to child protection, including statutory duties and guidance to educational establishments. Additionally, we have respect for and comply with the law in any other countries in which we work
- **Working together** – as individuals we will treat everyone with respect. Never use words or take actions that may bring yourself or others into disrepute.
- **Professionalism** – we will maintain the highest possible standards of professional and personal behaviour at all times. We will act in a fair, courteous and mature manner to children and adults alike.
- **Balance** - the nature of our profession is such that information can be seen as scary; it is important that any specialist has sufficient knowledge of the subject matter in order to maintain an appropriate balance. Educate, don't scare!
- **Safeguarding** - we will acquaint ourselves with the local procedures regarding safeguarding and child protection in establishments we visit.
- **Children** – defined as a person under the age of 18, we have a duty of care for all the children we engage with, which includes protecting from harm or risk of harm as a result of poor or outdated information or advice. If there is a suspicion, a concern or a disclosure, this will be reported to the establishment designated safeguarding lead at the earliest opportunity. This includes a requirement under the Prevent duty if there is suspicion that a child or adult may be under the influence of radicalisation or extremism.
- **We will never:**
  - Enter into an association or friendship with a child.
  - Show personal favour or otherwise to a child.
  - Commit any act against a child which is illegal or would be deemed inappropriate.
  - Exert influence in regards to personal attitudes or opinions.
  - Reveal contact details, including social media profiles, during training events, unless it is strictly in regards to our profession and with the permission of the establishment.
- **Confidentiality** – incidents of a concerning or child protection nature can give other specialists valuable insight of trends, patterns or emerging issues. Members are encouraged to share knowledge of incidents where that information may be of professional value to other members, however on no occasion should any personal or private information be shared.
- **Data protection** – all members are required to comply with the principles of Data Protection/GDPR.
- **Complaints** – We need to be sure we are seen as open and transparent in all of our dealings. If there are any concerns or complaints about any member of the Association, it should be brought to the attention of one of the Founding Members who will seek advice rather than deal with it privately.

Name: .....

Signed: .....

Date: .....