

Safeguarding information for Parents/Guardians of Children's University Online Subscribers

Children's University Trust (charity no. 1118315) developed and built the online platform, Children's University Online (CUO), in order to further our charitable aims. Our vision is a world where every child has equal opportunity to unlock their full potential through learning beyond the classroom. We know that what children do beyond the classroom can have a positive impact on their lives, and so we make it our mission to encourage, track and celebrate their participation in activities and do what we can to remove barriers that may be in the way. Naturally, the safety of children and young people is at the heart of this, and this document is intended to provide parents/guardians with the information needed to fully understand our approach to safeguarding.

Quick reference policies and links

- You can find Children's University's full Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy here: <https://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/about-us/accountability-and-transparency/>
- You can find Children's University's approach to GDPR and data protection outlined in our full Privacy Policy here: <https://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/privacy-policy/>
- Children's University is proud to link directly to the Police's Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) service and have a direct link in the header of our website. You can visit CEOP, make a report or find out more about their work here: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>
- NOTE: If you suspect any illegal activity has taken place or there is an issue you believe to be a criminal matter, you are advised to contact the Police directly and immediately.

Children's University Online – the principles behind the platform

Children's University Online was launched in 2019 as a safe and secure place for children and young people to record their participation in activities beyond the classroom. "Learning beyond the classroom" is the term we use to describe participation in any structured learning activity outside of the timetabled curriculum. This is inclusive of school-based enrichment and extra-curricular activities, as well as those that take place outside of schools and are run by organisations and individuals with no links to formal education.

Those children who subscribe to Children's University Online have access to the public activities that we have validated as part of the programme. They can also record their participation in activities that they have done elsewhere, and gain Children's University stamps for sharing their own reflections on their participation.

It is important that parents/guardians understand the basics of the platform:

- Your child's data is fully secure and stored in line with GDPR best practice
- There is no way for any information to be shared publicly – the only person who can view your child/ren's activities or dashboard is you or them using the login information you set up
- There is no messaging functionality built into CUO, meaning no one can use the platform to contact your child/ren and your child/ren cannot contact any other user or other stakeholder

- There is no social media integration, meaning nothing is designed to be shared or publicly viewable
- If your child/ren records their participation in an activity, or having attended a venue, event or workshop, that information is not shared with anyone
- In essence, information about their participation as a subscriber is completely private and secure from public viewing – everything is secure and hidden unless they are logged in

Activities that children do as part of their Children’s University journey

Children’s University do not run activities for children and young people. We act as a signposting organisation and recommend activities. Children’s University has a validation process that activities go through in order to get listed on our website and receive a Stamp Code that they then issue to participants. It is important to note:

- The Children’s University validation process is solely focused on quality assuring the learning content of an activity
- All activity providers acknowledge that matters of Health and Safety, Public Liability, GDPR and Safeguarding remain the responsibility of the activity provider.
- In order to become a validated activity, activity providers acknowledge that they are expected to operate to their statutory requirements in these areas.
- As parent/guardian, it is your responsibility to ensure that your child/ren takes part in activities that you are comfortable with.

What to do if you suspect anything inappropriate/illegal about an activity provider

- If you know of or suspect anything inappropriate or illegal relating to an activity provider you can find Children’s University’s full Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy here: <https://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/about-us/accountability-and-transparency/>
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Key personnel

- Leadership for safeguarding at Children’s University Trust lies with its Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Helen O’Donnell, CEO and Director of Memberships helen.odonnell@childrensuniversity.co.uk 07562 338348
- In the absence of the DSL, the designated safeguarding deputy at Children’s University Trust is: Liam Nolan, Head of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement liam.nolan@childrensuniversity.co.uk 07724 020042
- The Designated Trustee for Safeguarding (DST) at Children’s University Trust is: Kate Redhead kate.redhead@pstt.org.uk 07415 270003
- The Chair of Children’s University Trustee Board is: Jackie Dunne jackie.dunne@staff.newman.ac.uk 07969 085577