



**Charity Number 1175671**

## **Photography and Filming Policy**

### **The purpose and scope of this policy statement**

The Place works with young children and families, providing drop in sessions, classes for parents and community based activities. The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who take part in The Place's services, events and activities, specifically those where photographs and videos may be taken
- to set out the overarching principles that guide our approach to photographs/videos being taken of children during our events and activities
- to ensure that we operate in line with our values and within the law when creating, using and sharing images of children

This policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers and other adults associated with The Place.

### **Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. Summaries of key legislation and guidance is available at

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety>

### **Principles**

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to take, share and use images of children safely.

We recognise that:

- sharing photographs and films of our activities can help us celebrate the successes and achievements of our families and children, provide a record of our activities and raise awareness of our organisation

- the welfare of the children and families taking part in our activities is paramount
- children, their parents and carers have a right to decide whether their images are taken and how these may be used, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation
- consent to take images of children is only meaningful when children, their parents and carers understand how the images will be used and stored, and are fully aware of the potential risks associated with the use and distribution of these images
- there are potential risks associated with sharing images of children online. Find out more at

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety/photographing-filming-children>

## **What we do to keep children and families safe**

We will seek to keep children and families safe by:

- always asking for written consent from a child's parents or carers before taking and using a child's image. We will then ask specific verbal consent for any photos taken, for example on a group outing
- always explaining what images will be used for, how they will be stored and what potential risks are associated with sharing images of children
  - making it clear that if a child or their family withdraw consent for an image to be shared, it may not be possible to delete images that have already been shared or published
- not naming children whose images are being used in our published material whenever possible (and only using first names if we do need to identify them)
- never publishing personal information about individual children and disguising any identifying information (for example the name of their school or a school uniform with a logo)
- making sure children, their parents and carers understand how images of children will be securely stored and for how long (including how we will control access to the images and their associated information)
- reducing the risk of images being copied and used inappropriately by only using images of children in appropriate clothing (including safety wear if necessary)
- using images that positively reflect young people's involvement in the activity.

We will also develop a procedure for reporting the abuse or misuse of images of children as part of our child protection procedures. We will ensure everyone involved in our organisation knows the procedures to follow to keep children safe.

## **Photography and/or filming for personal use**

When children themselves, parents, carers or spectators are taking photographs or filming at our events or outings and the images are for personal use, we will make them aware of guidance about image sharing in the event programmes and/or announce details of our photography policy before the start of the event.

This includes:.

- reminding parents, carers and children that they need to give consent for The Place to take and use their images
- asking for photos taken during the event not to be shared on social media or asking people to gain permission from children, their parents and carers before sharing photographs and videos that include them
- recommending that people check the privacy settings of their social media account to understand who else will be able to view any images they share
- reminding children, parents and carers who they can talk to if they have any concerns about images being shared.

We will make sure families are aware photography and filming are not permitted in any of our sessions or classes

## **Photography and/or filming for The Place 's use**

Our staff may take photographs or video at our groups, courses or on outings to be used to promote The Place on social media and on our website or for grant applications and reports. In addition to general written consent, parents or carers will be asked for specific consent when photos are being taken.

If we hire a photographer for one of our events, we will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- providing the photographer with a clear brief about appropriate content and behaviour
- ensuring the photographer wears identification at all times
- informing children, their parents and carers that a photographer will be at the event and ensuring they give written consent to images which feature their child being taken and shared
- not allowing the photographer to have unsupervised access to children
- not allowing the photographer to carry out sessions outside the event or at a child's home
- reporting concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography following our child protection procedures.

## **Photography and/or filming for wider use**

If people such as local journalists, professional photographers (not hired by The Place]) or students wish to record one of our events and share the images professionally or in the wider world, they should seek permission in advance.

They should provide:

- the name and address of the person using the camera
- the names of children they wish to take images of (if possible)
- the reason for taking the images and/or what the images will be used for
- a signed declaration that the information provided is valid and that the images will only be used for the reasons given.

The Place will verify these details and decide whether to grant permission for photographs/films to be taken. We will seek consent from the children who are the intended subjects of the images and their parents and inform the photographer of anyone who does not give consent. At the event we will inform children, parents and carers that an external photographer is present and ensure the photographer is easily identifiable, for example by issuing them with a coloured identification badge. If The Place is concerned that someone unknown to us is using our sessions for photography or filming purposes, we will ask them to leave and (depending on the nature of the concerns) follow our child protection procedures.

## **If consent to take photographs is not given**

If children, parents and/or carers do not consent to photographs being taken, we will respect their wishes. We will agree in advance how they would like to be identified so the photographer knows not to take pictures of them, and ensure this is done in a way that does not single out the child or make them feel isolated. We will never exclude a child from an activity because we do not have consent to take their photograph.

## **Storing images**

We will store photographs and videos of children securely, in accordance with our safeguarding policy and data protection law. We will keep hard copies of images in a locked drawer and electronic images in a protected folder with restricted access. In most cases images will be deleted as soon as they have been used for the purpose for which they were taken, but they will not be stored for longer than a year.

We will never store images of children on unencrypted portable equipment such as laptops, memory sticks and mobile phones.

The Place does not permit staff and volunteers to use any personal equipment to take photos and recordings of children. Only cameras or devices belonging to The Place should be used. These are the workplace mobile phones which are password protected. Any photographs that are taken off site are uploaded onto a password protected computer on return and deleted from the device.

### **Related policies and procedures**

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- Safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures.
- Social Media policy and procedures for responding to concerns about online abuse.
- Data Protection Policy
- Handbook for staff and volunteers.
- Volunteer and Working Together Agreements

<b>Policy adopted</b>	<b>November 2024</b>
<b>Review date</b>	<b>November 2025</b>

**If you have any immediate concerns for the safety and wellbeing of a child, please call -**

**Within Oxfordshire: MASH (0345 0507666) or call 999 for Police assistance.**

**Outside Oxfordshire: NSPCC on 0800 800 5000 or call 999 for Police assistance.**