



Redgate Sports: Online Safety and Social Media Policy

This policy has been reviewed against Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026 and Working Together to Safeguard Children (WTSC) 2026.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- **Child/children** means anyone under the age of 18.
- **Parent** means anyone with parental responsibility, guardianship or caring responsibility for the child.
- **Staff** means members of the Redgate Sports team, including employees, volunteers, sessional workers, students and coaches.

Our Online Safety Statement

We recognise that keeping children safe in sport and physical activity extends beyond the game or changing room to include digital devices, online platforms and communication.

This policy provides guidance on how Redgate Sports approaches the use of the internet and online platforms while providing a safe and positive environment for children and young people.

Redgate Sports does **not routinely use mobile phones or other personal digital devices during coaching sessions**. Our approach to mobile-phone use is set out separately in our **Mobile Phone Policy**.

Redgate Sports may, where appropriate, use digital technology, online platforms or recorded material as part of coaching, mentoring, engagement, administration or safeguarding arrangements. Any exceptional use of digital technology will be subject to appropriate risk assessment and management oversight.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- our website
- social media

- sport management apps
- messaging and communication apps

As an organisation, we commit to implementing this policy and addressing any concerns quickly and within these guidelines.

Aims

The aims of our online safety policy are:

- to protect all children involved with our organisation and who make use of technology, such as mobile phones, games consoles and the internet, while in our care
- to provide staff with policy and procedure information regarding online safety and inform them how to respond to incidents
- to ensure that staff and volunteers understand appropriate professional behaviour when using online platforms or communicating with children online;
- to protect children's personal information, images and recordings
- to ensure that our organisation is operating in line with our values and within relevant legislation, statutory guidance and good practice, including the Data Protection Act 2018, UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and, where applicable, the Online Safety Act 2023
- to ensure that online safety is appropriately reflected within our wider safeguarding arrangements

Redgate Sports does not generally provide a formal online-safety education programme. Where appropriate, online safety may be discussed naturally as part of general mentoring or coaching conversations, or during Life Skills training, where this is relevant to a child's needs or experiences.

Our Policy

As part of our online safety policy, we will:

- conduct appropriate risk assessments for digital and online platforms being considered for use by the organisation
- ensure that we adhere to relevant legislation, statutory guidance and good practice when using online platforms
- provide relevant training to all staff on online safety and safeguarding, appropriate to their role
- ensure that staff and volunteers using online platforms have had training appropriate to their role
- ensure that staff and volunteers understand that online safeguarding concerns should be reported through the organisation's safeguarding procedures
- regularly review existing safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure online safety is embedded throughout the organisation

- ensure at least two authorised members of staff have appropriate access to our organisational digital platforms where practicable and that organisational platforms are appropriately managed and moderated
- ensure staff who manage or use our digital platforms have appropriate safeguarding training and work closely with the safeguarding lead
- keep apps, devices and platform security appropriately up to date
- use strong passwords, appropriate access controls and privacy settings
- effectively use security and privacy tools available on each platform
- have a zero-tolerance approach towards discrimination, hateful communication, cyberbullying, harassment and inappropriate, harmful or illegal content
- inform all staff, volunteers, parents, carers and children of who to report online concerns to, and what to do in the event they see something that worries them online
- adhere to appropriate parental consent and permissions when sharing images, videos or live streaming our organisation for promotional, educational or celebratory purposes
- never publish unnecessary identifying information about children on publicly available online platforms, such as our website and public social-media channels
- develop an online safety agreement or acceptable-use arrangements for staff and volunteers
- ensure personal information gathered while using online platforms is stored securely and in line with our privacy and data-protection arrangements
- ensure any exceptional use of digital technology involving children is proportionate, has a clear professional purpose and is appropriately risk assessed
- ensure that any online safeguarding concern is referred promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and managed in accordance with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Online Contact Between Staff, Volunteers and Children

Redgate Sports recognises that, in some circumstances, staff may need to communicate with children online as part of coaching, mentoring or an agreed professional activity.

Any such communication must:

- have a clear professional purpose
- use an approved platform or organisational account wherever reasonably possible
- be appropriate to the child's age, circumstances and needs
- maintain appropriate professional boundaries
- be consistent with the Redgate Sports Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use Policy
- be capable of appropriate management oversight

- comply with any requirements of the school, alternative provision setting or commissioning organisation where applicable

Staff and volunteers must not:

- use personal social-media accounts to communicate privately with children
- add children to personal social-media accounts
- exchange inappropriate personal photographs or content
- encourage a child to keep online communication secret
- use online communication to develop an inappropriate personal relationship
- use disappearing messages or other methods specifically intended to avoid appropriate oversight
- move a professional relationship to an unapproved platform
- arrange private meetings with a child through online contact

Any exceptional arrangement involving online contact with an individual child must be appropriately risk assessed and subject to management oversight.

Social Media

Redgate Sports uses social media to communicate and promote our work.

Official Redgate Sports social-media accounts will be managed by authorised staff.

Staff managing organisational social-media accounts must:

- follow the Redgate Sports Code of Conduct
- maintain professional boundaries
- use appropriate and respectful language
- protect children's privacy
- avoid unnecessary identification of children
- not engage in inappropriate private communication with children
- report safeguarding concerns immediately
- not publish content that could place a child at risk
- follow Redgate Sports' consent, privacy and safeguarding arrangements

Staff and volunteers should consider how their personal online presence may affect their professional role.

Staff must not use personal social-media accounts to develop inappropriate or private relationships with children involved with Redgate Sports.

Cyberbullying, Online Abuse and Harmful Content

Redgate Sports recognises that bullying and abuse can occur online as well as face-to-face.

This includes:

- cyberbullying
- discriminatory or prejudice-based abuse
- threats and intimidation
- harassment
- sexual harassment
- sharing sexual or intimate images without consent
- grooming or exploitation
- harmful sexual behaviour
- impersonation or manipulation
- malicious sharing of personal information
- harmful or illegal content

Staff must not dismiss harmful online behaviour as "banter", "just a joke" or "only online".

Any concern that a child may be experiencing or participating in abuse, including child-on-child abuse, must be reported to the DSL and managed in accordance with the **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**.

Artificial Intelligence and Manipulated Content

Redgate Sports recognises that artificial intelligence and digital editing tools can create or alter images, video, audio and other content.

Staff should be alert to risks including:

- AI-generated or manipulated images of children
- fake or altered sexual images
- impersonation
- deepfakes
- online harassment
- inappropriate collection or use of children's personal information

Any concern involving a child and AI-generated or manipulated content must be reported to the DSL.

Staff must not create, request, store or share inappropriate or sexualised AI-generated content involving children.

What We Expect of Staff and Volunteers

- Staff and volunteers will be aware of this online safety policy and comply with it
- Staff and volunteers will follow the Redgate Sports Code of Conduct and relevant organisational policies
- Staff and volunteers will maintain appropriate professional boundaries online
- Staff and volunteers will report online safeguarding concerns promptly
- Staff and volunteers will not investigate safeguarding concerns themselves
- Staff and volunteers will protect children's personal information, images and recordings
- Staff and volunteers will recognise that safeguarding concerns arising online may require the same response as concerns arising face-to-face

What We Expect of Children

Redgate Sports recognises that children have different levels of maturity, vulnerability, digital understanding and experience.

We do not expect children to manage serious online safety concerns themselves.

Children will be encouraged, in an age- and ability-appropriate way, to:

- behave respectfully online
- tell a trusted adult if something online makes them feel worried, uncomfortable or unsafe
- follow any reasonable rules relating to the use of digital devices during Redgate Sports activities

Online safety may be discussed as part of ordinary mentoring or coaching conversations where it is relevant to the child's needs or experiences.

What We Expect of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers should:

- be aware of this online safety policy
- consider carefully what information, photographs and videos they share about children online
- support children to use technology safely
- raise concerns about online activity involving Redgate Sports with the DSL
- respect the privacy of other children involved with Redgate Sports

Reporting Online Safety Concerns

Any child, parent, carer, staff member or volunteer who has an online safety or safeguarding concern should report it to:

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Dan Thorp. 07932 522156

Senior Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection:

Azmat Riaz. 07867 505872

Online safety concerns that indicate a child may be at risk of harm will be managed under the **Redgate Sports Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**.

Where Redgate Sports is delivering services on behalf of a school, alternative provision setting or local authority, the relevant safeguarding and reporting arrangements of the commissioning organisation will also be followed.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy has been developed with regard to relevant legislation, statutory guidance and regulatory frameworks, including:

- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data (Use and Access) Act 2025
- Online Safety Act 2023 where applicable
- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Equality Act 2010
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (KCSIE), particularly where Redgate Sports works in schools and alternative provision settings
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 (WTSC)
- Information Commissioner's Office Children's Code / Age Appropriate Design Code, where applicable
- relevant Information Commissioner's Office guidance
- relevant Ofcom online-safety guidance
- relevant local safeguarding partnership and commissioning requirements

Redgate Sports will comply with applicable legal and regulatory requirements and will have regard to relevant statutory guidance and the safeguarding arrangements of organisations with which it works.

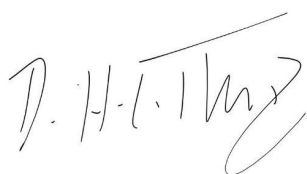
This policy should be read alongside, and does not replace:

- Redgate Sports Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Redgate Sports Mobile Phone Policy
- Redgate Sports Code of Conduct
- Redgate Sports Acceptable Use Statement
- Redgate Sports Privacy/Data Protection arrangements

The policy will be reviewed when there are significant changes to legislation, statutory guidance, regulatory requirements, organisational practice or the online risks faced by children.

Failure to comply with this policy and associated procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal, removal from volunteering or exclusion from the organisation and, where appropriate, referral to statutory or other relevant organisations.

This policy is recommended for approval by:



Dan Thorp
Redgate Sports Founder

Date: 10/08/26

POLICY REVIEW:

Redgate Sports review all policies every August. Policies may be reviewed and amended more frequently if the need arises. Changes in legislation and guidance or learning from incidents/near miss event may require a review and change to take place.

Policy/ Procedure	Date Last Reviewed	Amendments Made	Date Next Review	Amended By
Online Safety	06.08.23	Addition of Review Procedure	06.08.24	DT
	01.08.24		01.08.25	DT
	04.08.25	Updated to reflect latest CPSU advice	04.08.26	SK
	10.08.26	Updated to reflect latest legislation changes, some	10.08.27	SK

		rewording for clarity, add reference to Life Skills, formatting, removal of posting images of children online		
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This policy is circulated to all staff annually. The policy is also circulated to all referring partners.

Redgate Sports holds staff training 3 times a year and aspects of this policy are included in every training session.

This Policy has been developed by the Redgate Sports team and approved by the Board.