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Signature:	Chris Garcia	Next review date:	March 2026

Owner and version control

Digital and Online Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

This **Digital and Online Safeguarding Policy** outlines the measures and guidelines implemented by **Best Practice Network (BPN)** to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of all learners, staff, and stakeholders within our digital and online learning environments. Aligned with relevant UK legislation, this policy adopts a **proactive and preventative approach** to safeguarding in the digital space.

2. Legislative Framework

Our safeguarding practices comply with the following key UK legislation:

- **Children Act 1989 and 2004** (Link to Legislation) – Establishes the legal framework for child protection and welfare.
- **Education (Online Safety) Act 2021** (Link to Draft Guidance) – Mandates the provision of a safe online environment for learners and staff.
- **Data Protection Act 2018 & UK GDPR** (Link to Legislation) – Ensures secure handling of personal data and upholds privacy rights.
- **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015** (Link to Legislation) – Requires educational providers to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Oversees all aspects of online safeguarding, ensuring compliance and best practice.
- **Teaching & Support Staff:** Must promote online safety, identify risks, and report concerns immediately.
- **Learners:** Encouraged to adopt safe online behaviours through education and awareness. Resources available via UK Safer Internet Centre.

4. Online Safety Measures

To mitigate risks, BPN implements:

- **Internet Filtering & Monitoring** (UK Safer Internet Centre) – Advanced systems block harmful content.
- **Secure User Authentication** (NCSC Guidance) – Protects sensitive data with robust login protocols.
- **Encrypted Communication** (ICO Guidance) – Ensures all digital interactions comply with data protection standards.

5. Reporting & Responding to Incidents

All safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately to the **DSL** at safeguarding@bestpracticenet.co.uk.

- **Incident Reporting Procedure** (Link to KCSIE Guidance) – Clear steps for escalating issues.
- **Support & Intervention** (NSPCC Guidance) – Provides assistance to affected individuals.

6. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed **annually** to ensure compliance with evolving legislation. Updates will be communicated to all stakeholders.

7. Conclusion

Best Practice Network is committed to fostering a **secure, inclusive, and responsible digital learning environment**. Through this policy, we uphold the highest standards of online safeguarding, empowering our community to engage safely and confidently in digital spaces.