

Safeguarding Policy

PathWayPixel - Gaming and Mentoring for Neurodiverse Individuals

Introduction

PathWayPixel is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all clients, particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults. We recognise the importance of safeguarding and are dedicated to protecting the welfare of our clients in all aspects of their engagement with us.

Safeguarding Principles

Client Safety First:

The safety and well-being of our clients are paramount.

Respect and Dignity:

We treat all clients with respect, ensuring their dignity and individuality are upheld.

Zero Tolerance for Abuse:

We operate with a zero-tolerance policy for any form of abuse, exploitation, or neglect.

Key Commitments

Identifying Risks:

1. Actively monitor interactions to identify signs of distress, discomfort or potential harm.

Clear Reporting Channels:

1. All concerns about a client's safety will be immediately documented and reported to the appropriate parties (e.g., parents/guardians or authorities).

Secure Online Environment:

- 1. Use GDPR-compliant platforms like Discord (for communication) and Google Workspace (for reporting and data storage).
- 2. Maintain privacy and security protocols to protect client information.

Parental Involvement:

1. Maintain open communication with parents/guardians, including regular updates and prompt notification of any concerns.

Code of Conduct for Mentors

- 1. Maintain professional boundaries while fostering a supportive and friendly environment.
- 2. Avoid discussions or interactions that are inappropriate, overly personal, or unrelated to the session's objectives.
- 3. Uphold confidentiality, sharing information only when legally required or with explicit consent.

Responding to Concerns

Immediate Action:

Any signs of harm or abuse will prompt immediate action, including contacting parents/guardians or external agencies if necessary.

Recording Concerns:

A written record of any safeguarding concern will be maintained, detailing the nature of the issue and actions taken.

Collaboration with Authorities:

When required, we will cooperate fully with external safeguarding bodies or law enforcement agencies.

Online Safety Measures

Monitoring Sessions:

- 1. Voice/screen-record sessions for safety and review purposes, with prior consent.
- 2. Ensure all communications occur within approved channels.

Parental Consent for Games:

1. Obtain written permission for the games played, ensuring their appropriateness and developmental value.

Restricted Access:

1. Control access to the Discord server and ensure all client-specific channels are private and secure.

Review and Updates

The safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually or as needed to ensure compliance with evolving best practices and regulations.