



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH  
Centre for Open Learning

# COL Pre-University Summer School Safeguarding Statement

December 2025

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## Purpose and Scope

The Centre for Open Learning (COL) believes that young people should never experience abuse of any kind, and that we have a responsibility to promote their welfare, keep them safe and protect them from harm whilst attending the Pre-University Summer School.

The purpose of this statement is:

- To protect young people participating in the Pre-University Summer School from harm.
- To provide staff, young people and their guardians, with the overarching principles that guide COL's approach to safeguarding.

This statement applies to anyone working on behalf of COL on the Pre-University Summer School, including academic and professional services staff, COL's Senior Management Team and Executive Committee. This Statement compliments institutional policy and commitments to the staff and student experience.

## Definitions

**Young Person** means any person aged 16-18 years.

**Student** means any young person participating in COL's Pre-University Summer School.

**Guardian** means the parent or carer of a young person.

**Staff** means any COL staff member responsible for supporting or delivering elements of the Pre-University Summer School.

**Safeguarding** means the action taken to promote the welfare of young people and protect them from harm.

## Legal Framework

This statement has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect young people in Scotland. A summary of the key legislation and guidance can be found on the [NSPCC website](#).

## Supporting Documents

This statement should be read alongside the following policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:

- [COL Pre-University Summer School Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [University of Edinburgh Protection of Vulnerable Groups Policy](#)
- [University of Edinburgh Learner Conduct Expectations](#)
- [University of Edinburgh Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [University of Edinburgh Dignity and Respect Policy](#)
- [University of Edinburgh Trans Equality Policy](#)
- [University of Edinburgh Data Protection Policy](#)
- [University of Edinburgh Online Etiquette Guidelines](#)
- [University of Edinburgh Whistleblowing Policy](#)
- [University of Edinburgh Complaint Handling Procedure](#)
- [University of Edinburgh Staff Disciplinary Policy](#)

COL recognises that:

- The welfare of young people is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- All young people, regardless of age, disability, race, ethnic or national origin, religion or beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, colour or socio-economic background have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.

- Some young people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Extra safeguards may be needed to keep young people who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

### COL will seek to keep young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing Designated and Deputy Safeguarding Leads.
- Adopting safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff.
- Developing and implementing online safety guidelines.
- Recruiting and selecting staff safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Providing effective management for staff through supervision, support and training.
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.
- Making sure that young people and their guardians know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know and involving young people and their guardians where appropriate.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for young people and staff, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff, young people and their guardians, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

### Contact Details

**Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Head of the Centre for Open Learning

**Deputy Safeguarding Leads:**

- Director of Open Studies
- Head of Student and Academic Services

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