

# Photography and Sharing Images Policy<sup>1</sup>

Approved by EACP Trustees: 23 May 2019

Last Reviewed 15 November 2022

## Purpose and Scope

The East Africa Children's Project (EACP) supports schools and organisations in East Africa that come into contact with children and families as part of their activities in education and community support.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- protect children and young people who take part in EACP's services, events and activities, specifically those where photographs and videos may be taken
- set out the overarching principles that guide our approach to photographs/videos being taken of children and young people 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 and young people.

This policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers and other adults associated with our organisation.

## Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of UK legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect

children. Summaries of key legislation and guidance is available on:

- online abuse [learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse)
- child protection [learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system)

## 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 children and young people, provide a record of our activities and raise awareness of our organisation
- the welfare of the children and young people taking part in our activities is paramount

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<sup>1</sup> This guidance draws on guidance provided by the Charity Commission (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-for-dealing-with-safeguarding-issues-in-charities>), National Council for Voluntary Organisations (<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/safeguarding>), National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/>).

- 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.

More information about this is available from [learning.nspcc.org.uk/researchresources/briefings/photography-sharing-images-guidance](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/researchresources/briefings/photography-sharing-images-guidance).

### **We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:**

- always asking for consent from a child and their parents or carers before taking and using a child's image
- 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
- never publishing personal information about individual children, including names, and disguising any identifying information and making the child anonymised
- making sure children, their parents and carers understand how images of children will be securely stored
- reducing the risk of images being copied and used inappropriately by:
  - only using images of children in appropriate clothing (including safety wear if necessary)
  - avoiding full face and body shots of children taking part in activities such as swimming where there may be a heightened risk of images being misused
  - 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 and the images are for personal use, we will publish 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 EACP and others 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.

## Photography and/or filming for wider use

If people such as local journalists, volunteers 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.

EACP will verify these details and decide whether to grant permission for photographs/films to be taken. The EACP or a person with delegated authority 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 children, parents and carers will be informed that an external photographer is present and ensure they are easily identifiable, for example by using them with a coloured identification badge.

If EACP or any person is concerned that someone unknown to us is using sessions for photography or filming purposes, they will be investigated and may be asked them to leave and (depending on the nature of the concerns) follow our child protection procedures.

## 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. Images will be stored for a period of 5 Years.

## Related policies and procedures

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

- Child protection
- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Online safety policy and procedures for responding to concerns about online abuse.

[More information about what these policies and procedures should include is available from [learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection)].

Contact details

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### NSPCC Helpline

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We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice **annually**.