

Keeping students safe.

Policy and procedure across the platform, judging and events.

DRAFT v0.1 · Pending legal review. Not a binding document until signed off.

1. PURPOSE

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how School Summit Innovator safeguards children and young people involved in the programme. It applies to all staff, judges, mentors, event personnel, contractors and partners.

2. DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

2. Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is responsible for all safeguarding matters across the programme. The DSL is named at schoolsummit.com/safeguarding and reachable at safeguarding@schoolsummit.com.

3. RECRUITMENT AND VETTING

3. Recruitment and vetting

All adults working on the programme complete safer-recruitment checks appropriate to their role and jurisdiction. This includes references, identity checks and, where applicable, enhanced DBS / AccessNI / Garda Vetting.

4. ONLINE SAFETY

4. Online safety

The platform is designed to minimise unsupervised adult-child interaction. Direct messaging between adults and students under 18 is disabled by default. All judging feedback is delivered through the school account.

5. PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO CONSENT

5. Photography and video consent

Students under 18 are not photographed, filmed or named in publicity without explicit, opt-in consent from a parent or guardian. Consent is granular: stills, video, social media, broadcast and editorial are separately consented and can be withdrawn at any time.

6. REPORTING CONCERNS

6. Reporting concerns

Any safeguarding concern is reported to the DSL within 24 hours. The DSL acknowledges every report within 24 hours and acts in line with statutory guidance (Keeping Children Safe in Education, Children First, and equivalent frameworks in NI and the Republic of Ireland).

7. TRAINING

7. Training

All judges, mentors and event personnel complete a short safeguarding briefing before any direct contact with students. The DSL completes refresher training annually.

8. INFORMATION SHARING

8. Information sharing

We share information about safeguarding concerns with statutory authorities where required by law or where there is a serious risk to a child. We work to local thresholds in each jurisdiction.

9. WHISTLEBLOWING

9. Whistleblowing

Staff and partners can raise safeguarding concerns confidentially with the DSL. Concerns about the DSL can be raised directly with the Founder & CEO at the email address above.

10. REVIEW

10. Review

This policy is reviewed annually and after any material incident. The current version is published at schoolsummit.com/safeguarding.

