

OR in Education

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

The Operational Research Society works with children and families as part of its activities.

These include:

- **Careers Talks:** talking to a group of college or university students about personal careers experience. These are semi-formal events that typically last somewhere between 10-40 minutes.
- **Maths workshops:** running an interactive exercise in a school/classroom, demonstrating a real life application of OR.
- **Careers fairs:** these usually take place at a local school or university and can involve talking to interested students about career experiences/providing careers information.
- **Big Bang Fairs/Enrichment days etc.:** these often take place at a university or conference venue. They entail running an interactive exercise and talking about career experiences/providing careers information.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people who receive The OR Society's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- To provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of The OR Society, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from nspcc.org.uk/childprotection.

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, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, race, religion or belief, gender, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

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

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a nominated child protection/safeguarding officer.
- Developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice.
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers 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.
- Sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via literature, one-to-one discussions and volunteer training.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures.
- Implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately.
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely.
- Requesting ORiE volunteers attending events with children under the age of 18 complete an online safeguarding training module and undergo an Enhanced DBS check.

Related policies and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside the ORiE Volunteer Handbook and the ORiE Policy Document, which include:

- Procedures for responding to wellbeing & welfare concerns
- Allegations of abuse
- Role of the designated safeguarding officer

- Volunteer recruitment policy
- Adult to child supervision ratios
- Staff and volunteer code of conduct
- Equality and diversity statement
- Photography and image sharing guidance

Contact details

Nominated child protection/safeguarding officer

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NSPCC Helpline

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

This policy was last reviewed: May 2026

Signed: *Chiara Carparelli*

Date: 12/05/2026