KidzQuest E-Safety Policy

1. Policy Overview

At KidzQuest Activity Camps, we recognise the importance of safeguarding children in the digital world. Our E-Safety Policy aims to protect children, staff, and visitors from online risks, including exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and misuse of personal data. This policy outlines our approach to ensuring a safe and responsible use of technology during camp activities and applies to all participants, including children, staff, volunteers, and visitors.

2. Objectives

The primary objectives of this E-Safety Policy are to:
- Promote the safe and responsible use of digital technology and the internet.
- Educate children and staff about online safety risks and best practices.
- Establish clear guidelines for appropriate use of technology during camp.
- Protect children's personal data and prevent exposure to harmful content.
- Provide a framework for responding to any e-safety concerns or incidents.

3. Use of Technology at KidzQuest

- Digital devices, such as tablets, computers, and smartphones, may be used as part of camp activities for educational and entertainment purposes. However, all use of technology will be supervised by staff.
- Children are not permitted to use personal devices (e.g., mobile phones, tablets) during camp hours without explicit permission from the Camp Directors.
- Any online activities conducted as part of camp programming will be age-appropriate and vetted by staff to ensure safety.

4. Access to the Internet

- Internet access is restricted and monitored. Children will only be permitted to access pre-approved websites and content related to camp activities.
- Staff will actively supervise internet use to ensure children do not access inappropriate content. Any attempts to bypass restrictions or access unauthorised websites will be addressed immediately.
- Children will be encouraged to report any content they find disturbing or inappropriate to a member of staff.

5. Social Media and Digital Communication

- KidzQuest maintains an official social media presence for sharing updates and photos with parents/guardians. However, no identifiable personal information about children will be shared without explicit consent.

- Staff are prohibited from communicating with children via personal social media accounts or messaging apps. All communication must be conducted through official KidzQuest channels.
- Children are not permitted to use social media during camp hours. Any photos or videos taken during camp activities must only be shared through KidzQuest's official platforms, subject to parental consent.

6. Cyberbullying

- Cyberbullying, including any form of online harassment or abuse, is strictly prohibited at KidzQuest. This includes bullying through text messages, social media, or any digital platform.
- Any incidents of cyberbullying will be taken seriously and handled in accordance with KidzQuest's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies. Staff will work with the child, their parents/guardians, and other relevant parties to address the issue promptly.

7. Data Protection and Privacy

- KidzQuest is committed to protecting the privacy and personal data of all children and staff. Any data collected (e.g., photographs, personal information) will be handled in accordance with GDPR and KidzQuest's Data Protection Policy.
- Personal information will not be shared or published online without explicit consent from parents/guardians.
- Digital devices used for camp activities will be regularly checked and cleared of any sensitive information after use.

8. Staff Responsibilities

- All staff must be aware of and adhere to the E-Safety Policy. They are responsible for promoting safe online behaviour and supervising children's use of technology during camp activities.
- Staff will receive training on e-safety, including recognising potential online risks and responding appropriately to e-safety incidents.
- Any concerns about a child's online activity or potential exposure to harmful content must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Steven French) immediately.

9. Parental Involvement

- KidzQuest believes that parents/guardians play a key role in ensuring e-safety. We encourage open communication between staff and parents/guardians about children's use of technology.
- Parents/guardians will be informed about the E-Safety Policy during registration and will have the opportunity to discuss any concerns or questions.

- KidzQuest will provide resources and guidance to parents/guardians on supporting safe online practices at home.

10. Responding to E-Safety Incidents

- All e-safety incidents, including accidental exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, or misuse of technology, must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Steven French) immediately.
- Incidents will be documented and investigated in accordance with KidzQuest's Safeguarding and Incident Reporting Policies.
- Parents/guardians will be notified of any significant e-safety concerns involving their child.

11. Policy Review

This E-Safety Policy will be reviewed annually or as necessary to reflect changes in technology, legislation, and camp practices. Feedback from staff, parents/guardians, and children will be considered during the review process.