



SCHOLANET TECHNOLOGIES

CHILD SAFEGUARDING & ONLINE SAFETY POLICY

PROTECTING **CHILDREN** ACROSS THE SCHOLANET DIGITAL EDUCATION ECOSYSTEM



PROPOSED / FOR ORGANISATIONAL APPROVAL



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01 Purpose

This Child Safeguarding & Online Safety Policy establishes the principles, standards and procedures that Scholanet Technologies intends to use to protect children and young people who interact with the Scholanet platform.

Scholanet is intended to support:

Learners Parents & guardians Teachers Schools Universities Colleges TVET & VTI institutions Special-needs education
Online learning Tutoring Scholarships Career guidance Teacher Studio Digital educational content Education continuity
Education support programmes

Because children may use or benefit from these services, safeguarding must be incorporated into the design, development and operation of the platform.



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02 Policy Statement

Scholanet is committed to creating an education environment in which children can:

Learn Communicate Access educational resources Discover opportunities Participate in digital education

without being unnecessarily exposed to:

Abuse Exploitation Harassment Bullying Sexual exploitation Inappropriate content Inappropriate contact Fraud
 Manipulation Discrimination Unnecessary exposure of personal information

Scholanet will take reasonable and proportionate measures to prevent, identify, report and respond to safeguarding concerns.

03 Child-Centred Principle

The best interests, safety and dignity of children should be central to decisions affecting children on Scholanet.

Technology should serve children.
 Children should not be expected to adapt to unsafe technology.



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04 Policy Basis

This policy is intended to operate alongside:

Applicable Ugandan child-protection laws Uganda's National Child Policy Applicable education-sector requirements
Data Protection and Privacy Act, 2019 Data Protection and Privacy Regulations, 2021 Applicable NITA-U guidance
Scholanet's Data Governance & Privacy Framework Scholanet's Terms of Service Scholanet's Acceptable Use Policy

Uganda's National Child Policy establishes a national framework focused on children's survival, development, protection and participation.

05 Scope

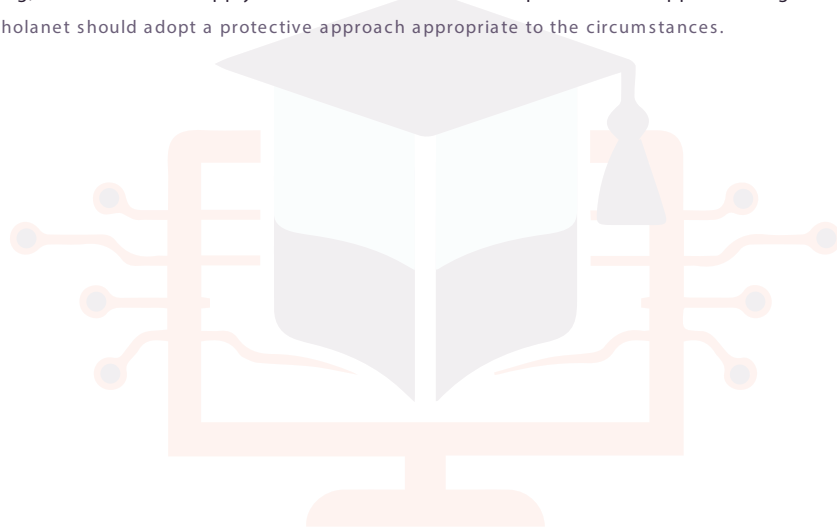
This policy applies to:

Scholanet employees Administrators Teachers Tutors Content creators Schools Institutions Contractors Volunteers
Partners Moderators Service providers Users interacting with children through authorised Scholanet services

06 Who Is a Child?

For purposes of safeguarding, Scholanet shall apply the definition of a child required under applicable Ugandan law.

Where uncertainty exists, Scholanet should adopt a protective approach appropriate to the circumstances.



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07 Safeguarding Principles

Scholanet's safeguarding system shall be based on:

- 1 Best interests of the child
- 2 Prevention
- 3 Do no harm
- 4 Respect and dignity
- 5 Privacy
- 6 Non-discrimination
- 7 Inclusion
- 8 Accountability
- 9 Confidentiality
- 10 Safe reporting
- 11 Appropriate escalation
- 12 Survivor-centred response

08 Zero Tolerance for Abuse

SCHOLANET WILL NOT KNOWINGLY TOLERATE:

Child sexual exploitation Child sexual abuse Grooming Exploitation Physical abuse Emotional abuse Harassment Threats
Coercion Trafficking Extortion involving children Deliberate exposure to harmful material

09 Online Safety

Scholanet recognises that digital education creates significant opportunities but also introduces risks that must be managed.

NITA-U's online-safety guidance identifies risks including online predators, cyberbullying, inappropriate contact, inappropriate conduct, inappropriate content and exposure or misuse of personal information.

Scholanet shall therefore implement appropriate online-safety controls.

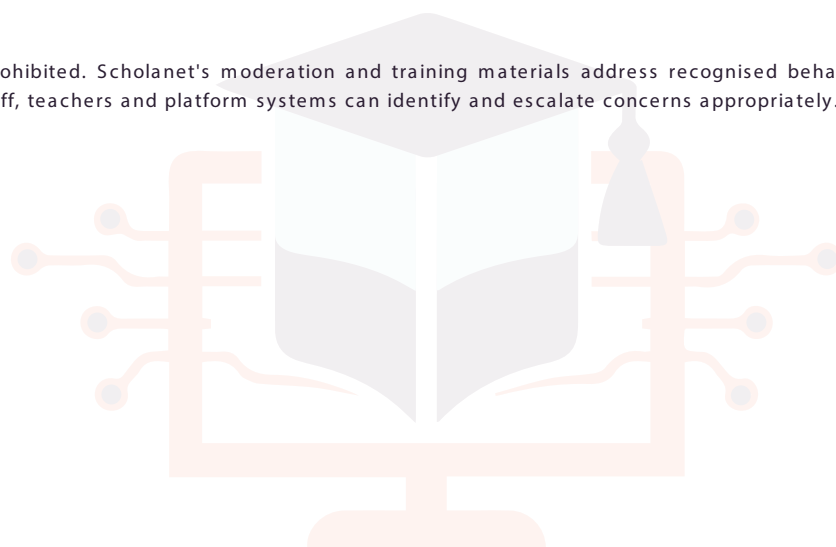
10 Online Predators

The platform should take reasonable measures to prevent adults from using Scholanet to target children for inappropriate purposes. Controls may include:

Identity verification Role-based access Reporting Moderation Monitoring Restricted communication Account suspension
Investigation Escalation

11 Grooming

Grooming behaviour is prohibited. Scholanet's moderation and training materials address recognised behavioural patterns associated with grooming, so that staff, teachers and platform systems can identify and escalate concerns appropriately.



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12 Teacher-Learner Relationships

Teachers and tutors must maintain professional boundaries. Teachers should:

Communicate for Legitimate Purposes

Communicate primarily for legitimate educational purposes, using authorised communication channels.

Avoid Unnecessary Private Contact

Avoid unnecessary private communication and inappropriate relationships.

Maintain Professional Conduct

Avoid sexualised communication in any form.

Never Cross Safeguarding Lines

Never request sexual images, or threaten or manipulate learners.

13 Private Communication

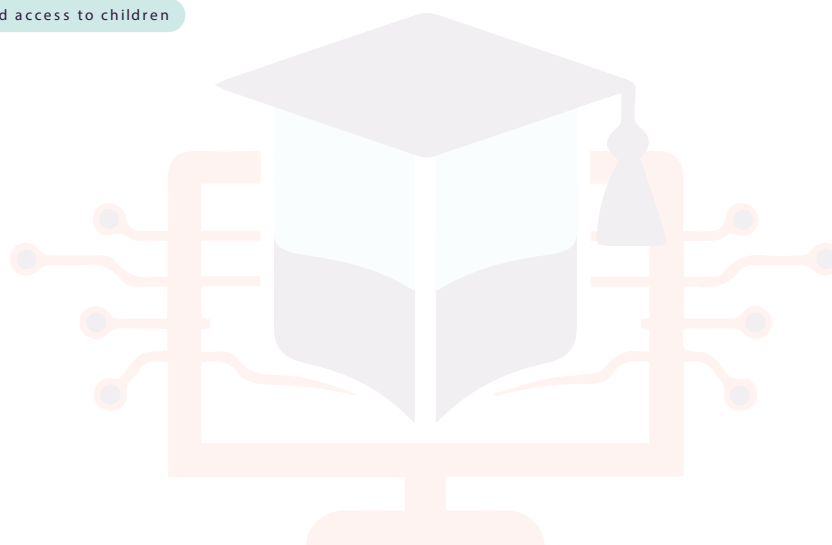
Private communication involving children should be carefully controlled. Where the platform provides messaging:

Appropriate logs maintained

Reporting mechanisms exist

High-risk behaviour detectable where appropriate

Adults not given unrestricted access to children



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14 Teacher Studio

Teacher Studio may allow teachers to create educational content, publish lessons, tutor learners, sell educational content and interact with learners. Teacher Studio must operate under safeguarding rules — teachers must not use it to:

- Solicit inappropriate relationships
- Exploit learners
- Request personal images
- Collect unnecessary personal information
- Arrange unsafe private meetings

15 Online Classes

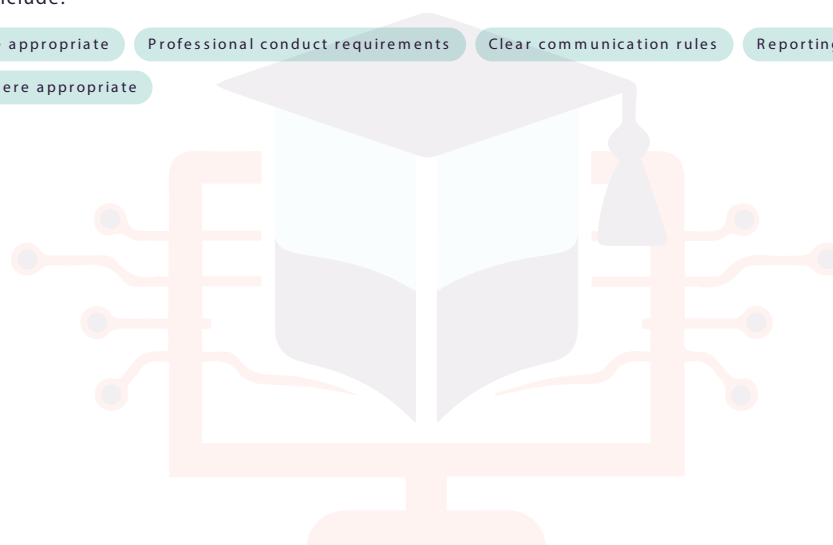
Online classes should use appropriate safeguards. Where possible:

- Approved channels only
- Verified teacher accounts
- Controlled learner participation
- Reportable chat
- Transparent, lawful session logging

16 Online Tutoring

Tutoring services should include:

- Verified tutor profiles where appropriate
- Professional conduct requirements
- Clear communication rules
- Reporting mechanisms
- Parent/guardian controls where appropriate



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17 Parent Involvement

Parents and guardians should be given appropriate tools to support children's online learning. Potential features include:

Learner activity visibility School communication Learning progress Class information Safety reporting Account controls

18 Kindergarten & Early Childhood

Younger children require stronger safeguards. For early-childhood services: parent/guardian involvement should be prioritised, communication should be controlled, public profiles restricted, personal information minimised, and content age appropriate.

19 Children With Special Needs

Children with disabilities and special educational needs may face additional vulnerabilities. Scholanet should provide accessible interfaces, appropriate support, respectful communication, privacy, protection from discrimination and appropriate safeguarding mechanisms.



20 Children Experiencing Education Interruption

Scholanet may identify learners who have interrupted education and seek to support their return to learning. Such learners must not be publicly labelled or stigmatised. Use respectful terminology such as:

Learner requiring support Education continuity case Re-engagement opportunity

21 Girls Who Experience Pregnancy

Scholanet intends to support girls who experience pregnancy-related education interruption. This must be handled with particular sensitivity. The platform should:

Protect confidentiality Avoid public identification Provide education-continuity information Support access to learning
Facilitate appropriate referrals Avoid stigma

Sensitive circumstances should not be used as public marketing material without appropriate lawful permission.

22 Scholarships for Vulnerable Learners

Where Scholanet connects vulnerable learners with scholarship opportunities:

Applications remain confidential Information shared only with authorised parties Donors receive aggregate information where possible
No unnecessary disclosure of sensitive circumstances



23 Children's Photographs

Photographs of children should be handled carefully. Scholanet should establish appropriate procedures for:

Obtaining permission where required Storage Publication Withdrawal Identification Donor communications

24 Children's Videos

Videos involving children should be subject to appropriate controls. Content should not expose children to:

Humiliation Exploitation Inappropriate commentary Unnecessary identification Inappropriate commercialisation

25 User-Generated Content

Scholanet may allow users and teachers to create content. User-generated content must comply with:

Child protection Copyright Privacy Acceptable use Anti-harassment Anti-exploitation rules



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26 Content Prohibitions

The platform must prohibit content involving:

Child sexual abuse material Sexual exploitation of children Grooming Threats Harassment Bullying Hate-based abuse
Violent exploitation Trafficking Harmful exploitation Fraudulent child-related campaigns

27 Content Moderation

Scholanet should establish appropriate content-moderation procedures. Moderation may include:

Automated detection Human review User reports Escalation Removal Account suspension

Automated systems should not be treated as perfect.



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28 Reporting Content

Users should be able to report:

Inappropriate content Suspicious users Bullying Harassment Exploitation Inappropriate teacher behaviour Safeguarding concerns

29 Safety Report Button

The public and user portals should provide a clearly visible:

REPORT A SAFETY CONCERN

Reports should be routed to authorised personnel.

30 Emergency Reporting

Where a report suggests immediate danger to a child, Scholanet should encourage or facilitate escalation to appropriate emergency, child-protection or law-enforcement channels as required.

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31 Reporting Workflow

The safeguarding workflow should be:



Note: This is a proposed child safeguarding and online safety policy for organisational approval. Unless expressly identified as operational or verified, statements regarding systems, controls and procedures represent planning intentions rather than confirmed or audited implementations. This policy should be reviewed by qualified child-safeguarding and legal professionals before formal adoption.

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