



UNCOMMON ONLINE SAFETY POLICY

This policy outlines Uncommon's commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and neuro-affirming online environment for all members. In compliance with the UK Online Safety Act 2023, Uncommon implements robust risk assessments, safety-by-design principles, content moderation, and user education to protect neurodivergent youth and foster a supportive community.

Purpose

At Uncommon, the safety and well-being of our members are our top priorities. Our platform is designed and moderated by trained staff to provide a supportive, inclusive, and secure environment. In compliance with the UK Online Safety Act 2023, we implement the following measures:

Risk Assessments

Uncommon is committed to creating safe, inclusive, and neuro-affirming spaces in our online clubs and community. To ensure this, we conduct **regular risk assessments** that focus on both the general online environment and the specific context of running neurodivergent-focused activities. Our risk assessments help identify potential risks to the safety and well-being of our members and guide us in implementing proactive measures.

Key Risk Areas

- **Harmful Content:** We assess risks related to inappropriate or harmful content, especially in gaming platforms (e.g., Roblox, Minecraft), and implement strict content moderation tailored to neurodivergent needs.
- **Bullying & Miscommunication:** We evaluate risks from negative peer interactions, such as bullying or exclusion, and provide clear guidelines for inclusive communication. Our team is trained to support common neurodivergent communication differences, ensuring neurodivergent-friendly interactions.
- **Emotional Safety:** We identify potential triggers, such as overwhelming or distressing discussions, and establish safeguards like timeouts or "quiet spaces" during sessions.
- **Cognitive Load:** We monitor for signs of overwhelm and encourage participants to take breaks if needed.
- **Information Sharing:** We assess risks around sharing personal information and enforce strict guidelines to prevent disclosure.
- **Age-appropriate participation:** We ensure that participants are appropriately grouped by age, with activities tailored to their developmental stages.
- **Continuous Monitoring:** We regularly review risks and gather feedback to make improvements.

Safety-by-Design

Safety by design is embedded in how we create, manage, and evolve our online clubs and community. This principle ensures that every interaction and feature is designed with the safety and well-being of neurodivergent youth in mind, while also maintaining inclusivity and fostering authentic connections.

- Design Considerations
 - **User Controls:** Customizable content filters, privacy settings, and notifications to support neurodivergent needs and reduce sensory overload.
 - **Inclusive Design:** Clear communication tools, sensory-friendly options, and structured chat formats to minimize misunderstandings and ensure comfort.
 - **Parental Controls:** Options for caregivers to monitor activities and ensure age-appropriate safety.
 - **Guided Moderation:** Active involvement of role models and moderators to maintain positive social dynamics and prevent bullying.
 - **Safe Zones:** Timeouts or “safe zones” allow users to take breaks from overwhelming interactions.
 - **Proactive Harm Prevention:** Automated systems and human moderation to detect and prevent harmful behaviors early.
 - **User Education:** Safety tutorials and workshops to promote digital literacy and empower users to navigate online spaces safely.
 - **Trained Facilitators:** All facilitators receive training in safeguarding and neurodivergent-specific support to handle risks effectively.

Content Moderation

Our proactive moderation approach ensures a safe online experience:

- Our trained moderators actively review and manage content to prevent harmful interactions.
- We provide an easy-to-use system for users to report inappropriate behavior or content, and we respond quickly to resolve any issues.

User Education

We empower our members and their families through:

- Guides on online safety, healthy digital habits, and Uncommon’s protective features.
- Resources tailored specifically for neurodivergent teens and their families

Age Verification and Protection



To protect our young members:

- We use age verification to ensure members are who they say they are and receive appropriate experiences on our platform.
- We design our online environment to minimize risks, in line with the UK's Age Appropriate Design Code.

Illegal Content Reporting

Uncommon has zero tolerance for illegal content:

- Any illegal material, particularly related to child safety, is reported immediately to the authorities.
- We securely store and manage any data collected in these reports, sharing it only with relevant authorities as required.

Data Protection and Privacy

We prioritize the privacy of our users:

- We comply with UK GDPR regulations, ensuring that personal data is collected, processed, and stored appropriately and securely.
- We collect only the information necessary for safety purposes and delete it when no longer required.

Clear Participation Policy

Our platform is governed by a clear participation policy:

- We clearly communicate what behavior is expected and the consequences of violations. Our terms are accessible to all users, including neurodivergent individuals.

Creating a Positive and Safe Experience:

We are dedicated to fostering an inclusive and supportive community. Our platform is designed with neurodivergent needs in mind, ensuring clarity, ease of use, and sensory-friendly features. Our community is moderated to maintain a positive and respectful environment for all members. We are committed to upholding the highest standards of online safety to provide a secure, affirming space for neurodivergent teens and tweens.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us directly at hello@uncommonminds.co.uk