

# Zvol si info

## CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

### 1. INTRODUCTION

"Zvol si info" was founded in 2016 by a group of enthusiastic students from the Faculty of Social Studies at Masaryk university in Brno, aiming to support democracy through media literacy education. Over the years, it has become a leading provider of educational services in media literacy in the Czech republic, focusing on empowering individuals of all ages to critically navigate the complex information environment. Our journey has been marked by significant achievements, including writing the bestselling book about Fake news, developing educational games, and spreading our message through leading Czech media.

Our core value is impartiality; we do not target specific political parties or states but aim to equip individuals with the tools to verify information themselves. We aspire to foster a democratic society grounded in fact-based, cultivated debate.

Our programs cater to a wide audience, from primary school children to seniors, and cover various aspects of digital responsibility and media literacy. By targeting these groups, we aim to bridge the gap in media literacy and critical thinking skills across generations and professions.

Zvol si info is committed to ensuring the safety, dignity, and rights of all children and young people. We believe that every child—regardless of age, gender, disability, ethnic origin, religion, or sexual orientation—has the right to be protected from all forms of abuse, neglect, and harm. This policy outlines the principles and procedures in place to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all children involved in our activities in the Czech Republic.

### 2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All staff, volunteers, interns, external collaborators, and board members of Zvol si info.
- All activities and programs organized or co-organized by Zvol si info where children (under 18) are involved or present.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, the following terms are defined as:

- **Child:** Any person under the age of 18, as defined by Czech law ([Civil Code § 858 and Act No. 359/1999 Coll. on Social and Legal Protection of Children](#)).
- **Safeguarding:** Proactive measures to promote children's welfare and prevent harm before it occurs.
- **Types of abuse** include:
  - **Physical abuse** – causing intentional bodily harm.

- **Emotional abuse** – persistent emotional maltreatment such as humiliation or threats.
  - **Sexual abuse** – involving a child in any form of sexual activity.
  - **Neglect** – failing to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs.
- **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO):** The individual responsible for implementing and overseeing safeguarding within Zvol si info.

### 3. CORE PRINCIPLES

- **Zero tolerance:** Zvol si info does not tolerate any form of abuse, exploitation, neglect, or harmful behavior toward children.
- **Safety first:** Safeguarding is a non-negotiable priority across all project phases. All children have equal rights to protection and support.
- **Participation and respect:** Children are treated with dignity, listened to, and involved appropriately in decisions about their involvement. Where appropriate and age-dependent, efforts will be made to communicate key aspects of this policy to child participants in an accessible manner.
- **Transparency and accountability:** Procedures are in place to prevent harm and address it if it occurs.
- Our approach must always comply with Czech laws and child protection regulations.

### 4. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 4.1 Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Zvol si info appoints a Designated Safeguarding Officer who is responsible for:

- Coordinating safeguarding training and awareness.
- Receiving and managing any child protection concerns.
- Reporting to relevant authorities (e.g. school preventionist/school psychologist, OSPOD or Police of the Czech Republic) when necessary.

#### 4.2 All Staff and Volunteers

Everyone must:

- Read and understand this policy.
- Participate in mandatory safeguarding training.
- Report any concerns or suspicions about a child's welfare immediately.

### 5. CODE OF CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR

All representatives of Zvol si info must:

- Treat children and young people with respect and dignity.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries at all times.
- Avoid being alone with a child in private settings.
- Never condone or ignore any form of abuse, bullying, or inappropriate behaviour.
- Communicate clearly and in an age-appropriate, respectful manner.
- Avoid spreading or promoting harmful or inappropriate content.

- **We do not tell children or participants what they should or should not read – instead, we support their free choice, critical thinking, and media literacy.**
- **We do not judge – we approach all children and young people with respect, empathy, and openness.**
- **All communication with children and participants is based on the principles of Nonviolent Communication (NVC): listening, empathy, honesty, and understanding.**

## **6. Reporting and Responding to Concerns**

Any concern about a child's safety must be reported immediately to the DSO or a senior team member.

Reporting Procedure:

1. Record the concern in detail (who, what, when, where).
2. Inform the DSO as soon as possible, ideally within 24 hours.
3. The DSO will assess the situation and, if needed, report to local authorities such as school psychologist, preventist or director; or OSPOD (Social and Legal Child Protection Authority) or the Czech Police.
4. All records will be handled confidentially and stored securely.

Important: Do not investigate the issue yourself. Your role is to report, not to verify.

## **7. Recruitment and Training**

- All individuals working directly with children will undergo background checks (e.g. Criminal Record Certificate).
- Safeguarding training is mandatory for staff and volunteers.
- Ongoing training and policy updates will be provided.

## **8. Monitoring and Review**

This policy is reviewed at least annually or whenever there are legal changes or lessons learned from practical experience. Feedback from team members and program participants is welcome and will be considered in updates.

## **10. Key Contacts**

### **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO):**

Name: Mgr. Lucie Rulíšková

Email: lucie.ruliskova@zvolsti.info

Phone: +420 775 277 070

**Police of the Czech Republic: 158**

**Child Helpline (Linka bezpečí): 116 111 (free, 24/7)**