

Keeping vulnerable people safe

Please take all the necessary steps to ensure you as the church or ministry are Online/E-Safety aware and competent as you run Alpha online.

We know it is much more difficult to monitor what goes on in the groups when you run Alpha online, which is why we encourage hosts and helpers to work together in trusted pairs or teams.

Dangers in this area include cyber bullying and online grooming. These are both very serious and should be treated with utmost caution and care by hosts and helpers.

Alpha online code of conduct for hosts and helpers

In order to use the Alpha online platform, all hosts and helpers will be required to sign up to the Alpha online code of conduct. All administrators, hosts and helpers will be prompted to read the code of conduct in a pop-up on their first-time logging into the platform. After reading the code of conduct, they will check a tick box to signify their agreement and adoption of the code of conduct.

We recommend you introduce the code of conduct to your hosts and helpers before they access the platform so they are aware of it and so that you can discuss the implications of it with them.

There is a short training video on the **resources for team training page**, for hosts and helpers on creating a safe environment in their online small groups and some useful dos and don'ts.

Five practical steps you can take to encourage a culture of e-safety in your Alpha

1. Have a minimum of two Alpha team members (hosts and helpers) facilitating any group and have a contingency plan in case of sickness or absence.
2. Encourage your hosts and helpers to keep their videos on throughout the Alpha session and get them to encourage their group members to do the same.
3. Don't allow guests to be in a room without a member of the Alpha team present. This will mean that hosts and helpers need to login early and be waiting as guests arrive and then will need to wait until all guests have logged off at the end of the session, before they leave the platform.
4. Make sure the whole Alpha team is aware of your policies on looking after vulnerable people and they know who to approach if they have any concerns. We recommend providing an email address and phone number to hosts, helpers and guests to ensure they know who to contact with any concerns of this nature.
5. If a guest is behaving inappropriately, a host or helper will be able to remove them from the group. In the unlikely event that a member of your Alpha team uses this function we would ask that the incident is reported appropriately as soon as possible.

More information

More information about e-safety can be found here:

<https://www.alpha.org/e-safety>