



Online Child Safety Policy (for parents and carers)

Whether online or in person, our usual Story Factory child safety policies apply. You can find these on our website or email info@storyfactory.org.au. In addition, to help keep young people safe online we will follow the policies outlined below.

We must receive an online permission form by a parent or carer for any student under the age of 16 to participate in an online session. We will keep parents involved in any communication with the students. Students aged 16 and over can complete an enrolment form themselves, otherwise a parent or carer will need to do so.

Students will be given the option of being on camera or not, and being on audio or not. It would be expected they would engage in the workshop in some way, even if this is just via the chat box, so as to get the most out of the program. However, to verify the student's identity, we ask that students say hello on camera at the start of each workshop - after that they can decide to keep their camera on or not.

We ask students to be mindful of their privacy when online, and to be mindful of what's in the background when their camera is on. We suggest students ensure the background does not reveal anything they would prefer to keep private; if there are blank walls in the house, students should consider using them as a background to protect their privacy. A virtual background could also be used if software supports this.

Story Factory may record online sessions for safety reasons. You will know if the session is being recorded by the consistent appearance of a "Recording" notice in the top left corner of the screen. If you are unsure, you can ask the Story Factory staff online. These recordings will be deleted at the end of the program.

Story Factory storytellers will never be left alone with a student online. In all online workshops, students will remain in the waiting room until there are at least two students in the session. If the number of students in the session ever reduces to just one, they will be moved to the waiting room with an explanation until another student or adult is able to join. If there is ever an instance where only one student attends a workshop, and there is only one storyteller in the session, the storyteller will leave the student in the waiting room with an explanation, wait for 15 minutes, and then cancel the workshop should no one else attend.

If a student or any participant shares inappropriate images or performs in an inappropriate way in an online session, Story Factory staff will immediately disconnect their video and audio and remove them from the session, and may need to make a formal report to the relevant child safety authority.

Story Factory will also provide co-host duties to key senior staff, who will sporadically check in on workshops unannounced each term. This provides an “open door policy” for the online environment, making the sessions more open to scrutiny.

If you have any concerns or questions about any online sessions, you can email Story Factory on info@storyfactory.org.au at any time, and we will be quick to respond.