



Recommended Practice (RP) >

*For all Ninjas there is only one rule: Above all be Cool!
Bullying, lying, wasting peoples time and so on is uncool!*

Produced by the  CoderDojo
Foundation

Overview_

This document details a set of guiding principles that the CoderDojo Foundation recommends all individual Dojos meet in order to provide a safe and creative space for all young people attending.

The principles set out in this document may be amended at any stage through a consultation process with the Community, Advisory Committee or through consultation with the board of directors of the CoderDojo Foundation.

From the 11th of June 2014 to the 12th of July 2014 the first version of Recommended Practice went to an Open Consultation period. During this period anyone from the global CoderDojo Community could submit feedback and propose changes. This is the amended version of Recommended Practice based on feedback given by CoderDojo community members.

Disclaimer_

This RP is a set of guiding principles and a general statement of policy only. It is not a legal agreement, or legal advice of any nature.

Each Dojo is responsible for the activities conducted by them, and must ensure their own compliance with local laws. The CoderDojo Foundation accepts no responsibility or liability for a Dojo's activities, whether it follows this RP or not.

What is the Recommended Practice?_

The CoderDojo Recommended Practice (RP) is a set of 5 guiding principles that Dojos can choose to meet. These 5 guiding principles are to serve as a guide for new and existing Dojos wishing to meet best practice standards.

It is important to note that for Ninjas there is only the one rule of CoderDojo; Be Cool. However us adults need to take extra steps to ensure that we create safe spaces for Ninjas to enjoy coding.

It is the Foundations intention to ensure that meeting RP is as hassle free as possible for Dojos. All documents referenced in RP will be either provided in full or in template form for use in your Dojo.

At the centre of RP are five guiding principles ;

1. Building a volunteer led community
2. Creating a safe space for young people
3. Encompassing the CoderDojo ethos
4. Online safety
5. Review and Communication

The Guiding Principles_

1. **Building a volunteer led community** - *Our Dojo is driven by a community of passionate volunteers*
 - 1.1. Our Dojo is volunteer led.
 - 1.2. Our mentors are volunteers who are passionate about inspiring the next generation.
 - 1.3. All of our volunteers are aware of the role they are volunteering to do. They have reviewed the mentor guide and are happy that they have adequate support.
 - 1.4. We encourage parental involvement and participation in our Dojo.

2. **Creating a safe space for young people** *Our Dojo has taken the steps we deem necessary to ensure our Dojo is a safe space for young people to be creative in.*
 - 2.1. We have researched and taken the necessary steps to ensure we meet best practice child protection standards in accordance with our region.
 - 2.2. We have a child protection policy in place which all of our volunteers are

aware of and are trained in its necessary procedures **or** if this isn't a requirement in your region all mentors have reviewed the CoderDojo Child Protection 101 document.

- 2.3. We have reviewed our Dojos space and are happy that necessary assessments, such as fire and safety standards, have been met.
 - 2.4. Our long term committed volunteers have been background checked **or** all parents/guardians remain at our Dojo for the duration of the Dojo session.
 - 2.5. We have appropriate public liability insurance **or** our venue sponsor/host covers our insurance.
3. **Principle 3: Embodying the ethos:** *All Dojos are inherently different but all abide by a common set of CoderDojo values and principles which our Dojo embodies.*
- 3.1. We do not charge attendees to attend or participate in our Dojo.
 - 3.2. Attendees are encouraged to work with one another through peer mentoring and self led learning.
 - 3.3. Our Dojo does not resemble a classroom environment, it is a space facilitated by mentors who encourage young people to explore and create technology.
 - 3.4. Diversity among our attendees is respected, we don't discriminate against race, gender, sexual orientation or religion.
 - 3.5. We actively encourage our long term young members to have an active role in the operations, running and direction of our Dojo.
4. **Principle 4: Online Safety:** *We have researched data protection in our jurisdiction and will ensure we use members details for the purposes collected.*
- 4.1. Our mentors have familiarised themselves with the CoderDojo Web Safety 101 document.
 - 4.2. Our Dojo attendees are aware of the importance of web safety.
 - 4.3. Our Dojo only allows age appropriate content.
 - 4.4. Our Dojo abides by data protection regulations in our jurisdiction.

5. **Principle 5: Review and Communication:** *We understand that communication with the Foundation is important to help shape the movement.*
 - 5.1. We agree to assist in providing information to the Foundation which may be required for partnerships and measuring impact.
 - 5.2. We commit to taking all genuine feedback from members of our Dojo, including complaints, about our Dojo seriously.
 - 5.3. We encourage our volunteers and members to contribute to the greater CoderDojo movement through adding to the [Kata Knowledge Base](#) and the [GitHub page](#).
 - 5.4. We encourage our volunteers and members to engage with the greater CoderDojo community through the community groups, social media, forums and [Community Calls](#).

Self assessment of RP_

The aim of RP is to be as inclusive as possible, enabling all Dojos wishing to meet the principles to do so at minimal effort. RP will be based on a self assessment model, whereby a Dojo is provided with a simple framework, enabling them to determine their current position and plan for future improvements. The Foundation will equip a Dojo with the relevant tools to measure their progress.

A Dojo will liaise with the CoderDojo Foundation who will act in a supporting capacity throughout, providing guidance on the implementation of RP, and an assessment function, through validating a Dojos progress through surveys and one on one calls.

Ongoing Process_

RP will evolve alongside CoderDojo as the movement continues to scale and grow into new territories and cultures around the world. The CoderDojo community is

encouraged to share lessons learned and feedback among one another and within the community, with the aim of collectively developing RP.

Next Steps_

Between September and December, RP will be piloted with 25 Dojos from around the world who volunteered to participate. Any issues identified will be clarified and necessary amendments made. All documents will be made public in January 2015 at which point all Dojos will be encouraged to join the conversation and participate in RP.