

Ideas for schools to consider template

To assist schools in drawing up their e-safety policy, SWGfL has issued guidance for schools and a School E-Safety Policy Template document. Schools may wish to use the following prompts when determining and evaluating their policy, which are based on a document contained in the DCSF “Safe to Learn” Overview: <http://www.teachers.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=11907>

Discuss, monitor and review

- Do we hold discussions on e-safety and its definition, involving staff, children and young people, governors and parents?
- Do we keep a record of the incidence of e-safety incidents, according to our agreed definition, and analyse it for patterns – people, places, groups, technologies?
- Do we ask ourselves what makes an e-safe school?
- What is our school doing to ensure that our children and young people do not feel vulnerable and are safe to learn, when engaged in online activities?
- Do we celebrate our successes and draw these to the attention of parents/carers and the wider community?

Support everyone in the school community to identify and respond

- Do we work with staff and outside agencies to identify all potential forms of e-safety incidents?
- Do we actively provide systematic opportunities for developing pupils’ skills to develop safe online behaviour?
- Have we considered all the opportunities where this can be addressed – through the curriculum; through corridor displays; through assemblies; through the School Council; through peer support; and through the website and parents’ evenings and newsletters?
- Do we ensure that there is support for vulnerable children and young people?
- Do we train all staff to be aware of potential e-safety issues and follow school policy and procedures on e-safety?
- Do our staff feel adequately supported to be able to respond to and manage e-safety related incidents?

Ensure that children and young people are aware of how and to whom e-safety incidents should be reported and understand that all e-safety concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively

- Do we acknowledge and learn from the high level of skills and knowledge of children and young people in the use of new technologies? (often referred to as the “digital natives”)
- Do we regularly canvass children and young people’s views on the extent and nature of e-safety issues?
- Do we ensure that young people know how to express worries and anxieties about e-safety?
- Do we ensure that all children and young people are aware of the range of sanctions which may be applied against those involved in e-safety misuse?
- Do we involve children and young people in e-safety campaigns in school?
- Do we demonstrate that we are aware of the power of peer support? Have we created and publicised schemes of peer mentoring or counselling; buddying or mediation, for example?

- Do we include the phone numbers of help-lines in the school's student planners?
- Have we made children and young people aware of "how to report abuse"?
- Do we have an e-safety notice board?
- How else do we bring e-safety messages to children and young people's attention?
- What role does our School Council already play in our e-safety work? How might that involvement be enhanced?
- Do we offer sufficient support to children and young people who have been involved in e-safety incidents?
- Do we work with children and young people who have been involved, or may be seen as being at risk?

Ensure that parents/carers are aware of e-safety issues and that those expressing concerns have them taken seriously

- Do we work with parents and the local community to address issues beyond the school gates that give rise to e-safety issues? – particularly with regard to the possible lack of filtering and monitoring of internet access by children and young people out of school and with regard to cyber-bullying incidents
- Do parents know whom to contact if they are worried about e-safety issues?
- Do parents know about our complaints procedure and how to use it effectively?

Learn from effective e-safety work elsewhere and establish effective collaboration

- Have we invited colleagues from a school with effective e-safety policies and practice to talk to our staff?
- Have we involved local authority staff or other local / regional experts in any way?
- Do we have an established link with the police?

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