

ONLINE SAFETY

In brief

- Include online safety in your safeguarding policy
- Consider having a named individual with responsibility for online safety
- Assess your policies and procedures as your digital provision grows
- Be GDPR compliant
- Keep up to date and make use of free resources and materials

Context

Online safety is a growing part of a school's safeguarding responsibility. All schools will have robust policies and procedures in place to support and protect the whole school community. If digital is to be a significant part of your organisation's learning programmes, it is advisable to understand and model this robust approach in your practice. Showing schools that you've got this area covered will give them confidence in your organisation and its products and programmes.

COVID 19 UPDATE March 2020

The DfE has published interim safeguarding guidance for schools, colleges and other providers to support them keeping children safe including online, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Keeping Children Safe in Schools remains the key statutory document but schools/others will have to adhere to this new guidance which will be updated regularly. Keep the link bookmarked to ensure your organisation has the most up to date safeguarding information.

Useful Resources (to be used in conjunction with previously listed resources):

London Connected Learning Centre - [Remote Learning Resources for schools/educators](#)

National Cyber Security Centre - [Resources for people working in Education](#)

South West Grid for Learning - [Guidance on safe remote learning](#)

NSPCC - [Guidance on safe remote learning](#)

HomeLearningUK - a collaboration between edtech organisations, schools and other educators to provide [advice and guidance](#) for students, teachers and parents.

Considerations

Online safety should appear as a section within your organisation's safeguarding policy. If your use of digital is a significant part of your learning programmes and you intend to work with both pupils and teachers, or you want to develop your online engagement with teachers, then you should consider having a separate online safety policy. You may want to consider uploading this policy alongside your digital materials. Make it visible on your website to reassure schools that you have strategy in place. It may also be useful to have a named individual on your team – an online safety champion – who will take overall responsibility for online safety by providing updates and input for colleagues and acting as the key contact for incidents or issues.

Data gathering should be in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (2018).

Help is at hand

There are many specialist organisations producing free resources and materials to support you in keeping up to date and developing your provision.

[South West Grid for Learning](#) is top of the list. Their self-review tool, [Online Compass](#), helps organisations working with young people outside of formal settings improve their online safety practice. The tool references a set of template policies and some of these are quite daunting. Don't be overwhelmed – just pick and choose the bits that apply to you and your context. If you want to take it further, you can apply for the Online Compass award (cost attached to this). SWGfL also produces a wealth of free resources and products and manages the Ofsted-recognised Online Safety Mark for schools. Take a look.

[NSPCC](#) has also produced a set of template policies and documents. In addition, its website includes all sorts of materials and resources. If you intend to work directly with young people/pupils then you may want to consider a representative from your organisation taking its online introductory course (4 hours/£30).

[Digital Parenting](#) produces a great online magazine. It's targeted at parents but if you want a quick way to get the latest intelligence, this should be top of your reading list.

[Internet Matters](#) has advice, research, policy updates, resources and materials for teachers and parents.

[ParentInfo](#) Parent Info is a collaboration between [Parent Zone](#) and [NCA-CEOP](#), providing support and guidance for parents from [leading experts and organisations](#) in and beyond online safety. It's targeted at parents and covers a wide range of issues but if you want a quick way to get the latest intel, then this is a good 'go to'.

Want to know more?

Follow on Twitter

- [@SWGfL_Official](#) South West Grid for Learning
- [@IM_org](#) Internet Matters
- [@UK_SIC](#) UK Safety Internet Centre

Read

- [DfE's guidance on Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (page 93)
- [ROH Online Safety Police](#)

Check out

- [UKSIC's guidance](#) for teachers and others working with young people
- UKSIC's helpline (POSH/[Professionals Online Safety Helpline](#)) for professionals working children/young people in the UK to support with any online safety issues they may face themselves, or with children in their care.



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