School: Astley Park School

Assessment date: March 22nd, 2021 Assessor: Ron Richards

Headteacher: Kieran Welsh Contact Person: Rebecca Tolan

Thank you for your application and for the supporting documents.

The application form, the review and the supporting documents suggest that the school has continued to improve its online safety provision and that the school remains at (and in many places, above) Online Safety Mark benchmark levels. It gave me pleasure to read the application form and the review which made it clear that there has been ongoing progress in recent years.

There are many positive aspects to your review, including:

* The application form and the detailed review clearly describe the improvements and developments that have taken place.
* The main development points in the previous Assessor report appear to have been addressed:
  + Pupils have individual, password protected accounts (in Office 365)
  + There is far greater assessment of pupil progress in online safety, with personalised learning goals.
  + The online safety curriculum is mapped and has been broadened and developed, in line with the Education for a Connected World Framework.
* Parents are well supported through regular contact and by parent/carer sessions.
* Staff training is well planned and the school has been pro-active in asking the staff for their views on what should be included in the online safety training.
* There is good contribution by the children – particularly through the Digital Leaders group.
* While I would not want schools to inflate their levels in the tool without good reason, it is pleasing to see more level 1s in this review compared to three years ago – reflecting the improvement I would hope to see in a “mature” Online Safety Mark school three years on.

Time does not allow me to list all the developments and improvements that I can identify when I compare your review to that of three years ago, but it is worth summing these up as a far more mature and embedded provision.

In terms of development points I would like to suggest:

* The Families aspect is below the required benchmark level. I think this must be an error. In 2018 it was rated as a Level 2 and it appears that provision is at least as good as it was three years ago. The school should look again at the review of this aspect.
* It would have been interesting to know how the school’s online safety provision had been affected by the Covid-19 situation over the past year and whether the quality of provision in an Online Safety Mark school has helped the pupils and the community cope with some of the online safety issues that might have developed in these changed times.
* There are some references in the review to the school helping / supporting other schools to develop their online safety provision. I would hope that this can be continued / extended because Astley Park could have an important role to play locally and across the authority.

In three years time to achieve the award again you would be required to have a full assessment. This would allow the Assessor to have the opportunity to see and to comment on, the many developments that have taken place. In reading the review and the application, I would expect this to be an enjoyable Assessor visit.

I am pleased to confirm that the school has been awarded the Online Safety Mark for a further three years.



Ron Richards