

GOVERNOR BRIEFING: SEPT 2023

This briefing has been created to help you in understanding your role in keeping pupils safe online. The briefing includes links to statutory guidance, non-statutory guidance and further information that we think may be useful in your role.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION (KCSIE)

This is statutory guidance for Governing bodies of maintained schools in England from the DfE.

Applicable points from the guidance include:

- Governing bodies should ensure that those staff who work directly with children read at least Part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that **all** governors and trustees receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction.
- Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure online safety is a running and interrelated theme whilst devising and implementing their whole school or college approach to safeguarding and related policies and procedures.
- Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure their school or college has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness. They should ensure that the leadership team and relevant staff have an awareness and understanding of the provisions in place and manage them effectively and know how to escalate concerns when identified. Governing bodies and proprietors should consider the number of and age range of their children, those who are potentially at greater risk of harm and how often they access the IT system along with the proportionality of costs versus safeguarding risks.

The full guidance can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

TEACHING ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

This non-statutory guidance outlines how schools in England can ensure their pupils understand how to stay safe and behave online as part of existing curriculum requirements. This guidance is for school leaders, school staff and governing bodies.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools>

PROFESSIONALS ONLINE SAFETY HELPLINE (POSH)

POSH is a free service for those working with children and young people. You can contact them via phone or email regarding any online safety issue that you may be having. Find out more here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline>

CYBER SECURITY IN SCHOOLS: QUESTIONS FOR GOVERNORS AND TRUSTEES

Cyber security is about protecting the devices we use, and the services we access online from theft or damage. It is also about preventing unauthorised access to the vast amounts of personal data we store on these devices and in online accounts. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the DfE have created some questions for the governing body and trustees to ask school leaders, to help improve a school's understanding of its cyber security risks.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/school-governor-questions>

ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS: QUESTIONS FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

This document is for school governors and trustees to help them support school leaders to keep children safe online. The document is set out as a list of questions and includes examples of good and outstanding practice, as well as identifying when governors should be concerned.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-in-schools-and-colleges-questions-from-the-governing-board>

FILTERING AND MONITORING ADVICE

As outlined above, KCSIE states that Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure their school or college has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness. The UK Safer Internet Centre provide guidance, resources and tools to help support your school with filtering and monitoring:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/filtering-and-monitoring/>

TEACHING ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools>

FURTHER INFORMATION

Enhancing digital resilience in education: An action plan to protect children and young people online

<https://hwb.gov.wales/keeping-safe-online/enhancing-digital-resilience-in-education-an-action-plan-to-protect-children-and-young-people-online/>

Keeping children and young people safe: an Online Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland

<https://www.safeguardingni.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/online-safety-strategy%20-%20published.pdf>

Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/harmful-online-challenges-and-online-hoaxes>

Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people>