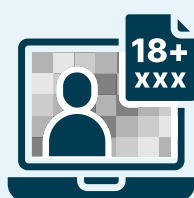


# Keep your pupils safe online

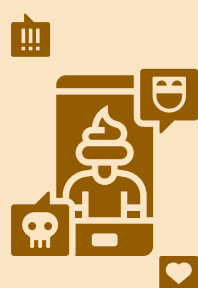
The internet plays an integral part in children and young people's lives. And while there are numerous benefits that come with exploring this digital world, there are also several risks.

Keeping children safe online especially in a school context is crucial and schools are required to protect children from content; contact; conduct and commerce related risks:

**Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.



**Conduct** – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and



**Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes'.



**Commerce** – Risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.



Schools need to adopt a risk mitigation approach to managing online risks. This includes ensuring that they have the right policies and practices in place; robust infrastructure including filtering and monitoring; high quality and effective education and training for staff, students and parents and finally they need to ensure that this is all reviewed and updated.

## What do you need to think about?

- The effectiveness of your policies
- The level of understanding and awareness about your procedures
- The quality of your training and support
- Your interactions and engagement with parents and carers
- Your curriculum and your approach with students
- Your effectiveness in managing incidents
- The effectiveness of your approach

Safer Internet Day 2023 will be celebrated on 7th February with the theme 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'

You can download additional free resources from the Safer Internet Day website: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023>

### Step 01

#### Understand the context and risks

- Audit your students and staff
- Find out what the real risks are
- Consider your context – are you delivering learning remotely? Do you have BYOD? What age are your students?
- Ensure that you are complying with relevant legislation Have you cross referenced what 'needs' to be in place with what children and parents are worried about?

### Step 02

#### Stress test your policies

- Re visit your policies – your safeguarding and child protection policy does it include online risks?
- Use a potential real life incident and stress test your procedures do they work is there anything extra that you need to include e.g. reporting and removal of imagery online
- Have you thought about all of the online risks and do you have appropriate sanctions in place that relate to online risks?
- If there are gaps ensure that you develop new policies

### Step 03

#### Ensure that you have the right technological solution in place

- Consider your filtering and monitoring needs
- Do you need to monitor interactions for online learning?
- Who will review the interactions and do you have an effective triaging system in place?
- Is your DSL overseeing the technical approach?

### Step 04

#### Ensure that there is an effective education and training plan for students, teachers and parents and carers

- Are teachers regularly educated on online safety issues?
- Do they know what to do and how to respond?
- Do you offer a balanced and age-appropriate curriculum for students?
- Do you measure impact?
- Have you surveyed parents about what they are worried about in the online world?
- How are you supporting parents and carers?
- Do you understand how to engage with them effectively?
- Are you measuring the impact of your engagement with parents/carers?

### Step 05

#### Regularly review that your approach is working

- Conduct at least annual audits on students and staff re the risks
- Measure the impact of your approach
- Keep up to date with emerging risks
- Adapt the approach as appropriate

This resource has been made in partnership with Charlotte Aynsley, a digital safeguarding expert with over 10 years experience supporting BECTA, the UK Government, the NSPCC and more. You can find out more about Charlotte Aynsley at her website: [www.rethinkingsafeguarding.co.uk](http://www.rethinkingsafeguarding.co.uk)

If you'd like to find out more about how Impero Software can help you to keep your pupils safe online, visit us at: [imperoftware.com](http://imperoftware.com)

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