

**CYP Scrutiny Task Group
Online Strategies in Schools
Action Plan Update October 2016**

Recommendations	Response/Actions	Lead	Timeline
<p>Recommendation 1 - That Council work with schools that do not currently have an online safety strategy to develop this policy, providing advice and guidance and signposting to resources online where appropriate (paragraph 3.6).</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> Schools are expected by DfE/Ofsted to have online safety policies and in London LGfL have model policies for schools to customise as they wish. All policies should be reviewed annually.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> CSF Department will request copies of online safety policies from all schools and engage with schools which currently do not comply. <u>Update</u> Request made and some policies received. All policies should be reviewed annually so this will become a process. Schools have been encouraged to display key policies (Including Online Safety) on their websites and this will lead to greater transparency.</p> <p>Schools are asked to examine online safety policies as part of their annual safeguarding audit.</p> <p><u>Update</u> Changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance mean all schools should update their policies to include use of mobile devices and data security. Updates to guidance on Sexting (now Youth Produced Sexual Imagery) also needs to be included.</p> <p>Schools extranet now has online safety page to signpost schools to resources</p>	<p>SMISS Team</p> <p>School Improvement Service</p>	<p>Annual review</p>

<p>Recommendation 2 – That the council and schools provide more regular training for parents and carers to educate them on the risks that young people face, how to manage these and on the safe use of new technologies and discuss what training and awareness raising is required/appropriate, for example, bulletins (paragraph 4.7).</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> CSF Department already offers this training to schools – in current year 6 sessions have been provided and 4 are already booked.</p> <p><u>Update –</u> Ongoing. New training materials developed in conjunction with Parent Zone. A further ten sessions undertaken at schools with more planned. Working relationship with fostering established training delivered to Foster carers. Working with My Futures (Gang Workers) to deliver online safety sessions to parents. Promoting awareness of online safety issues by presenting to LSCB MASE panel.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> CSF Department will remind schools of training offer and encourage take-up. Termly online safety bulletin sent to schools.</p>	SMISS Team	Ongoing
<p>Recommendation 3 – That schools and the council equip children and their families to remain safe online by signposting to, and providing, information and resources on new and potential risks to young people when online (paragraph 4.7).</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> CSF Department have produced an online safety booklet for parents/pupils. This has been circulated and will be updated to include latest developments annually.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> CSF Department will provide updates for booklet on emerging risks – eg radicalisation via internet. Schools be strongly encouraged to add ParentInfo (CEOP, Parentzone) icon with link and or RSS feed to school websites. Promoting links to LGFL and associated resources. All schools have received Prevent training.</p>	SMISS Team	Ongoing
<p>Recommendation 4 – That schools brief new students on the positives and negatives surrounding the use of the internet, for example, profiles on social media sites and potential impact on future employment and educational</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> See response to rec 3 above. Additionally schools have Acceptable Use policies and expect teachers, parents and pupils to</p>		

<p>opportunities, when they sign up to the schools acceptable user agreement (paragraph 4.10).</p>	<p>explicitly agree the terms.</p> <p><u>Update</u></p> <p>Ursuline – Online safety involvement in device handover sessions for all year 7 and year 10 parents and students.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> CSF Department will continue to raise the profile of schools’ role in advising pupils of safe use of internet.</p>	<p>School Improvement Service</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Recommendation 5 – That Cabinet engage with the council’s corporate communications team to consider how best to raise awareness of online safety issues and how schools and parents can best support young people when online (paragraph 4.10).</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> To date, there has been no formal corporate communications strategy in connection with online safety for children and young people.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> CSF Department will ask corporate communications team to develop and implement online safety communications campaign/strategy during 2016-17. To include a parents page on the council website directing parents to online safety, security and anti- fraud resources.</p>	<p>Commissioning, Strategy and Performance Division</p>	<p>During 2016-17 corporate service planning process</p>
<p>Recommendation 6 – That Cabinet explore the use of existing volunteers in libraries being asked to include raising awareness amongst parents and young people on online safety issues and measures to their role (paragraph 4.10).</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> Libraries offer free BYOD (bring your own device) Wi-Fi access to library members as well as providing internet access from public access library computers. Equipping library staff and volunteers with advisory skills would appear sensible.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Meeting with Head of Libraries has already been arranged to progress this recommendation.</p>		

<p>Recommendation 7 - That Cabinet identify schools that are exemplars of good practice in relation to online safety to provide peer support to schools that require guidance, advice and support on online safety issues or policy paragraph 4.10).</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> CSF Department already promotes the exemplar model in the context of school improvement. To extend the use of the model to incorporate online safety appears sensible.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> CSF Department will encourage Merton Education Partnership to focus on the issue of online safety in their broader agenda and will encourage exemplar school (s) to come forward</p>	<p>School Improvement Service</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Recommendation 8 – All schools should be encouraged to undertake the safety audit developed by the council annually to ensure that their online safety strategies and measures are effective (paragraph 4.13).</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> See recommendation one action: Schools will be asked to examine online safety policies as part of their annual safeguarding audits</p>	<p>School Improvement Service</p>	<p>Annual review</p>
<p>Recommendation 9 – That schools notify the council’s MASH team regarding any safeguarding issues concerning online safety and that the MASH team analyse that data to determine if any vulnerable groups or demographics require additional support to manage online risks. This should feed into schools online safety policies and action plans (paragraph 6.18).</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> Schools are already expected to operate within London-wide and local safeguarding procedures and to routinely refer to MASH any safeguarding concerns including in connection with online safety. Active commitment to partnership working is a requirement of the updated Ofsted school inspection framework.</p> <p><u>Update</u> School improvement have worked closely with CSC to enable free flow of information between schools and MASH. This has included training all social workers in the use of the secure document transfer platform (USO-FX) and creating a MASH group so that schools can make quicker referrals.</p>	<p>MASH/School Improvement Service</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>

	<p><u>Action:</u> MASH team to be asked to report any trend data to School Improvement Service</p>		
<p>Recommendation 10 – That the council encourage schools to include online safety on every school council meeting agenda, as a standard item, to enable young people to raise any issues or concerns and for schools to then respond appropriately (paragraph 7.3).</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> It is agreed that open communication in schools about online safety issues is inherently helpful for both pupils and school leaders.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> CSF Department will encourage Merton Education Partnership to raise the profile of the issue of online safety in their broader safeguarding agenda and to engage with Merton schools accordingly.</p>	School Improvement Service	Ongoing
<p>Recommendation 11 - That Cabinet explore, with schools, the possibility of rolling out existing mechanisms to enable young people to raise concerns anonymously in the first instance to then allow a decision to be taken on how best to respond paragraph 7.3).</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> Schools already have mechanisms in place to support anonymous raising of concerns eg re bullying and cyberbullying</p> <p><u>Action:</u> CSF Department will encourage schools to use existing channels for anonymous concerns re online safety issues.</p>	School Improvement Service	Ongoing
<p>Recommendation 12 – That schools encourage young people to become online safety champions and to provide support and/or mentor other pupils to provide advice and guidance on any online safety issues they are encountering (paragraph 7.8).</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> Peer support/championing models are often seen as more attractive to young people than alternative approaches led by adults. This recommendation, therefore, appears sensible.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> CSF Department will engage with schools and promote a peer online safety champion model.</p> <p><u>Update</u> Investigating partnering with eCadets a pupil-led e-safety empowerment scheme for children aged 3-18. A partnership would offer</p>	School Improvement Service	Ongoing

	schools a discounted rate. Schools to be consulted.		
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