

Online Safety For ITT Students

T e a c h e r I n f o



 The e-Safety Office

Definition

'Online Safety focuses on educating children and young people on being safe when using the internet and technology. The key aim is to educate children from an early age about the potential risks of sharing personal information on the internet. As technology develops, practitioners also have to look at other associated risks such as cyberbullying, radicalisation and sharing inappropriate images.'

Intro To Online Safety

Over the past 10 years, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of children using technology and having access to the internet. In 2008, the government commissioned Dt Tanya Byron to produce a report called 'Safer Children In A Digital World' (<https://bit.ly/2BOTlzt>). It set out the strategies for helping children in the online world with the setting up of bodies like UKCCIS.

The latest research from OFCOM shows how popular technology is with children. Some of the highlights show that:

- 83% of 8-11 year olds go online for 13.5 hours a week
- 74% of 8-11 year olds play games for 10 hours per week
- 40% of children who own a mobile are allowed to take it to bed

There are other reports that have highlighted concerns about the extent of cyberbullying and the impact of social media on children's mental well being. As children enter secondary school, these statistics increase further and this can lead to further concerns related to issues such as **sexting** (sending inappropriate images to peers) and **online radicalisation** (extremist groups influencing young people with online propaganda).

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Online Safety In Schools

Online Safety can be broken down into the following:

Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material

Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users

Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm.

Commercialisation: methods where children can be targeted through online adverts or influence.

It is important that you read your schools relevant policies to ensure you know what procedures to follow, if you are concerned about a student. Disclosures can arise from conversations you have with a young person, overhearing a discussion or something that they include in a written piece of work.

In addition, you may be asked to deliver e-safety as part of the curriculum e.g. Computing, PSHE. It is important that you research the area before you deliver the session.

Placement Tips

Being on placement can be very daunting with a vast amount of information being given to you in a short amount of time.

In many schools, online safety will be covered as part of safeguarding and you should be familiar with procedures in place to inform your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) about any concerns. This may be through paper based reporting systems or safeguarding software.

It is important that you familiarise yourself with policies in your school or trust. These include:

- E-Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- PREVENT Policy
- IT Policy
- Social Media Policy

Another important document is the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). This is usually a short document relating to your use of the schools IT system. It is important that you read and sign this document, as it highlights your responsibilities of using the schools IT network.

Personal Social Media Profiles

If you have your own personal social media account, you need to think carefully about what you post and your connections with others. It is very important that you read the school's Social Media Policy to ensure that you do not compromise your professionalism. Some key points are:

- Make your account 'PRIVATE' to ensure that others cannot see your personal information.
- Do not connect with any pupils (including those in Year 12/13). This also applies to any requests from former students when you have finished your placement.
- If you do connect with colleagues from your placement school, do not discuss school based issues.
- When you are posing online, always consider your professional status as a teacher.

Useful Sites:

Think You Know: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Childnet: <https://www.childnet.com/>

Internet Matters: <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Common Sense Media (US): <https://www.commonsense.org/>