1 minute guide: Online Safety

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the internet, facilitated through technology like computers, tablets, mobile phones and other internet-enabled devices. Online abuse can happen anywhere online that allows digital communication, such as social networks, text messages and messaging apps, email and private messaging, online chats, comments on live streaming sites and voice chat in games.

With internet enabled devices being a part of everyday life for children, early years settings provide a vital foundation for online safety education in today's digital age.

You may also be a source of help and support for parents or carers about keeping their children safe online at home; some useful links which might be helpful can be found below.

Online safety should be part of the setting's safeguarding responsibilities and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should take lead responsibility for online safety concerns and the acceptable and appropriate use of technology within the setting.

Ofsted 'Inspecting Safeguarding' 2021

> *Adults understand the risks associated with using technology, including social media, of bullying, grooming, exploiting, radicalising, or abusing children or learners. They have well-developed strategies in place to keep children and learners safe and to support them to develop their own understanding of these risks and in learning how to keep themselves and others safe. Leaders oversee the safe use of technology when children and learners are in their care. They take action immediately if they are concerned about bullying or children's well-being. Leaders of early years settings implement the required policies on the safe use of mobile phones and cameras in settings.*

The Statutory Requirements for the EYFS (2024) now includes reference to 2 documents developed by the UK Council for Internet Safety. There is one Guidance for Practitioners and one Managers Guide.

Taken from the managers guidance

- 1.2 Online safety is recognised as part of the setting's safeguarding responsibilities - the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should take lead responsibility for online safety concerns.

- 2.3 Managers should ensure that staff
    - Appropriately supervise children whenever they are using devices
    - Check apps, websites and tools prior to using them with children, this should include checking the results of searches
    - Use age appropriate apps, websites and online tools with children
    - Model safe practice when using technology with children
    - Ensure data is shared online in accordance with the settings data protection responsibilities.

Taken from the guidance for practitioners

"You play an essential role in helping young children learn the foundations of safe online behaviour. Even if children don't have access to technology within your setting, they will may be using it at home, with their friends or in other public spaces. Children are naturally curious in understanding the world we live in; it is our responsibility to enable them to do so, including helping them to

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recognise the value of technology and use it safely. Role modelling safe use of the internet should become part of our everyday practice"

The Education for a Connected World framework describes the Digital knowledge and skills that children and young people should have the opportunity to develop at different ages and stages of their lives. It highlights what a child should know in terms of current online technology, its influence on behaviour and development, and what skills they need to be able to navigate it. Education for a Connected World - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Useful Links

- Online Safety article from PACEY
- FREE - Online Safety in Early Years Training (ndna.org.uk)
- Parent pack for teachers - Internet Matters this website has some useful resources for parents, and also lots of checklists and resources for talking about online safety.

- Childnet: For a range of educational materials and resources for use with children, parents and teachers, including 'Social networking: a guide for teachers and professionals' and 'Keeping young children safe online' Resources in other languages Childnet - resources in other languages
- DfE Data Protection Toolkit for Schools: For information on what schools need to do in order to comply with data protection regulations
- Internet Matters: For a range of materials for parents and teachers, including for pre-school and 0-5
- NCA-CEOP: Education resources for use with children, parents and professionals and advice on safeguarding children from sexual abuse, including www.thinkuknow.co.uk and the CEOP Safety Centre
- NSPCC online safety NSPCC have partnered with O2 and have put together some useful resources NSPCC & O2 | Keeping kids safe online | NSPCC
- Parent Zone: For a range of education materials and resources for use with children, parents and teachers
- Parent Info
- UK Safer Internet Centre: For a range of education materials and resources for use with children, parents and teachers, UK SIC helpline for professionals who are working with children and young people

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