Online Safety Mark Assessor Report

School: Sydenham Primary School   Date of assessment: 7th March 2018
Assessor: Sarah Fitzgerald   Headteacher: Juliette Westwood

School Contact Person: Alex Hawes

Element A – Policy and Leadership

Leadership of Online Safety continues to take high priority at the school with clear roles and responsibilities. Governors challenge the school on aspects of Online Safety and are included in collecting and analysing data. Since the last assessment the school has addressed the three areas of development with children's work being shared with the local community centre and school's website.

There is an active Online Safety group, commonly known as the Online Safety Ambassadors, where children meet regularly and update the Online Safety Governor on their ideas and projects. Recently they promoted the safe use of apps, creating a display board and information fact sheet on privacy settings, this information was not only shared in school but across the federation. Policies are in place and are shared with the governors and the Online Safety group.

Element B – Infrastructure

The school continues to use the local authorities monitoring and filtering system which has recently been updated to improve better monitoring facilities. This is supported by regular and effective monitoring reports. Antivirus and Malware protection is used and updated across all desktops and laptops. iPads are monitored by the Online Safety Officer and technician from the local authority and security measures are in place when using the BYOD network.

The school have made some considerable changes in relationship to GDPR; coded locks on doors where appropriate and a new photocopier that protects confidential data with coded access along with a clear desktop policy.

Staff and Governors use OneDrive for Business and their WeLearn365 emails which is provided by the local authority. This is a Microsoft product that encrypts all content at source and in motion using multiple encryption technologies such as BitLocker, Azure Storage Service Encryption and Office365 Service Encryption, all data is stored in the EU.

Confidential data sent to external agencies are protected, office staff follow up with a phone call to the named respondent with a password allowing access to the specified document. Servers are backed up and secured in case of a malware or virus attack.

Element C – Education

The school embrace all areas of Online Safety and is threaded through all subject areas including weekly assembly's, citizenship as well as celebrating Safer Internet Day. There is a progressive Online Safety curriculum which is evaluated by the Computing Coordinator and Executive Head Teacher, making sure that teaching and progression of Online Safety is clear across all year groups. More recently the school was part of a project for Online Safety helping to create resources and lesson plans for the ICT Development Service and now known as the Online Safety Box for Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS OSBox), this is now being used across Warwickshire and other local authorities.

Parents valued the support and advice the school had given regarding 'Online Gaming and Age-related Apps,' through messages and newsletters. This was a result of children discussing the types of games they used through a monitoring incident, which the school felt needed addressing.

Online surveys are completed by members of the school community and areas of weakness are addressed through training, assemblies and lessons. The school has found this an effective way to keep the school up to date and training relevant to needs of the pupils.

The Online Safety Ambassadors were very proud of the videos they had created about privacy settings and this is displayed in the school's entrance. They felt that the school listened to them and they had a voice.

An induction programme is in place for new members of the school, making them aware of the Online Safety policies and procedures that are in place. Children and staff use usernames and passwords to log on to the computers and know how important it is to keep their personal information secure.

Governors have now received Online Safety training and three of these have attended the Online Safety training sessions provided by the Warwickshire ICTDS specifically for Governors. The Governor I spoke to was extremely proud to be involved with Online Safety and felt that Governors were part and parcel of the whole Online Safety ethos across the school community.

Best practice and Online Safety expertise is now shared with Lighthorne Heath Primary School who they are now federated with.

Element D – Standards and Inspection

There is effective shared leadership of Online Safety and monitoring and recording of Online Safety incidents that take place are dealt with through robust processes the school has in place. Data analysis takes place looking for trends and patterns along with the Online Safety Governor. There is a range of supporting programs in place such as the Triple P Programme supporting parents and Art Therapy allowing for self-expression. The school also work with third parties and the Safeguarding team when the need arises.

Children and staff felt comfortable in speaking up about online issues and felt that the Online Safety coordinator was extremely knowledgeable and helpful when they needed any advice and support.

Areas of strength and good practice

- Many of the parents and governors who spoke to me couldn't praise the school enough for their commitment to Online Safety. They thought the school responded well to incidents of Online Safety and followed this up through parent sessions, newsletters, text messages and assemblies for children. They felt that their children were safe when using the internet both at home and in school.

- Professional development is seen as a key ingredient to keeping children safe. There is a full range of training that takes place throughout the year from Prevent, DSL, CEOP, Online Safety, 360Safe and GDPR making sure the school is kept up to date not just locally but nationally.

- The school embrace social media and now have their own Twitter feed. Allowing for timely messages and celebrations; empowering parents and the wider community to be safe online.

Areas for further development

- The school and governors have a clear understanding of the areas for development and highlighted the need to refine the policies to cover elements of GDPR and new wearable technologies whilst making sure policies are crossed referenced accordingly.

- Continue to develop the community links through the Community Centre and Lighthorne Health Primary School. The Online Safety Ambassador's and the School Council had some inspiring ideas that the school could embrace.

- The school is taking part in the Unicef, 'Rights Respecting Schools Award'. This would be a great way to incorporate children's rights and respects in conjunction with the schools Online Safety Ambassadors.

Additional Comments

It has been a real pleasure to have visited Sydenham Primary School to experience the hard work and dedication of the Online Safety Office, SLT, Staff and Governors. It is clearly evident that Online Safety is a high priority at the school.

I would like to congratulate the school on achieving their Online Safety Mark.

Assessor's Recommendation

The school has reached the standards required to be awarded the Online Safety Mark.