Guidance for Governors on e-Safety

Ofsted Inspections
Since September 2012 there has been an increased focus on e-safety as part of safeguarding. In the context of an inspection, e-safety may be described as the school's ability:

- To protect and educate pupils and staff in their use of technology
- To have the appropriate mechanisms to intervene and support any incident where appropriate

The breadth of issues can be categorised into three areas of risk:

- 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.

Sample questions for school leadership (including the GB)

- How do you ensure that all staff receive appropriate online safety training that is relevant and regularly up to date?
- What mechanisms does the school have in place to support pupils and staff facing online safety issues?
- How does the school educate and support parents and whole school community with online safety?
- Does the school have e-safety policies and acceptable use policies in place? How does the school know that they are clear and understood and respected by all?

Sample questions for pupils

- If you felt uncomfortable about anything you saw, or if anybody asked you for your personal details such as your address on the internet would you know where to go for help?
- If anybody sent you hurtful messages on the internet or on your mobile phone would you know who to tell?
- Can you tell me one of the rules your school has for using the internet?
- Do you understand what the risks of posting inappropriate content on the internet are (secondary students only)?

Sample questions for staff

- Have you had any training that shows the risks to your and pupils online safety?
- Are there policies in place that clearly demonstrate good and safe internet practice for staff and pupils?
- Are there sanctions in place to enforce the above policies?
- Do all staff understand what is meant by the term cyber-bullying and the effect it can have on themselves and pupils?
- Are their clear reporting mechanisms with a set of actions in place for staff or pupils who feel they are being bullied online?

"In a good school we should expect positive answers to all of the above. It would demonstrate a schools commitment to e-safety if all staff had received some awareness training outlining what the current risks are and what resources are available to help them keep pupils and themselves safe online."

The role of the e-Safety Governor could include:

- Meeting with the member of staff responsible for e-Safety to support monitoring of the Policy, such as:
  - Ensuring there is an education programme for staff and children
  - Considering information provided to parents; information shared on website
  - Promoting activity around Safer Internet Day (February), Anti-Bullying week (November) or other school supported events
  - Supporting with governor e-Safety training
- Reporting to relevant Governor Committees / meetings

Governors are responsible for the approval of the e-Safety policy and for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy. This will normally be carried out by the Governors / Governors' Sub Committees, receiving regular information about e-Safety. Governing Bodies usually review their e-Safety policy at the start of each academic year to ensure that all new staff and pupils are aware of its content and have signed appropriate Acceptable Use Agreements.

e-Safety training should be considered for all Governors.

Best practice: a member of the Governing Body takes on the role of e-Safety Governor.

Note: The example questions were taken from Ofsted's guidance to its inspectors, Inspecting e-safety September 2013