

**HOUNSLOW SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
BOARD
E-SAFETY STATEMENT
2017-2019**



1. Introduction and Background

The internet is now an integral part of children and young people's lives; a multitude of devices provide access to a wide range of information, opportunities for instant communication and social networking. This can offer an opportunity for inclusivity, creativity and exploration of different roles and identities.

The internet can benefit children and young peoples' education and social development, but it can also present several risks. It is important that children and young people are empowered to protect themselves from risks they may encounter and are able to safely manage their lives online as well as offline. Children, young people and families are often unaware that they are as much at risk online as they are in the real world, and may not be aware of the actions they can take to protect themselves. The educational and social benefits of the internet should be promoted, but that this should be balanced against the need to safeguard children.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out the aims and objectives of the Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board's approach to e-safety. This statement also seeks to identify key principles under which work around e-safety should be undertaken and identifies key priority areas of work in order to improve our collective response to e-safety.

We recognise that an effective approach to online safety empowers children, young people and their families to stay safe online. It also empowers those who work with them to protect, educate and establish mechanisms to identify, intervene in and escalate any incident where appropriate.

This statement has been developed in conjunction with universal and early intervention services and multi-agency partners working with children, young people and their families within Hounslow.

This statement should not be viewed in isolation and should be considered alongside other key documents including early help policies and procedures, the Department for Education's 2016 Statutory Guidance, '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#),' [Hounslow's Thresholds Guidance Assessment Protocol 2016](#) and the [Child and Family Assessment Notification \(CFAN\)](#). Staff who work with children have a role in implementing this guidance by helping the children and young people they work with to keep themselves safe on-line and dealing with safeguarding issues arising from e-safety incidents.

This document is intended to be read by:

- All education institutions (maintained, independent, support, colleges, free schools, academies)
- All venues where young people have access to technology (eg: youth centres, libraries)
- All constituents of the Hounslow Local Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB)
- Parents and community groups

3. Definitions

E-safety is a term which encompasses not only the internet but other ways in which children and young people communicate using electronic media, including mobile phones, game consoles and other electronic devices. It means that children and young people are protected from harm and supported to achieve the maximum benefit from new and developing technologies without risk to themselves or others.

We know that some people (adults and other children or young people) will use these technologies as a platform from which to harm children and young people. The harm might include: radicalisation, blackmail, bullying, sending hurtful or abusive texts, pictures and emails, grooming, enticing children to engage in sexually harmful conversations online, webcam filming, photography and face-to-face meetings ('sexting' and 'cyber-bullying' are terms used to describe many of these activities).

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but 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; and
- conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes harm.

4. Guiding Principles

The HSCB's approach to e-safety is to be contemporary, credible, relevant, and evolving. We recognise that children are "digital natives" and we must remain up to date with changing technology and changing risks. Our aim is to educate, empower, prevent and protect – we need to give children and young people the right information and support to make better decisions and keep themselves safe while using technology.

5. Statement and Objectives

Educate and Empower

- To ensure that all children, young people, their families, carers and those who work with them are aware of potential online safeguarding issues and know how to access advice, information and support and feel empowered to report any concerns.
- To build on and use the skills and experience of children and young people in keeping themselves and their peers safe and to promote the responsible use of technology.
- To ensure that all people who work with children and young people have access to good quality procedures and effective training to safeguard children at risk through online activity

Prevent

- To ensure that systems and services are in place to identify, intervene and divert people from exploiting or abusing children online and offline.
- To ensure that all services working with children and young people have a designated and trained person responsible for safeguarding and that this includes e-safety.
- To ensure that schools, colleges and groups working with children and young people understand their duty to ensure effective filtering/monitoring systems are in place to ensure they are doing all they can to minimise risk.
- To ensure children, young people and their families and carers know how to “[zip it, block it, flag it](#)” to keep themselves safe online.
- To ensure relevant and realistic guidance is given to parents and carers e.g. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

Protect

- To ensure all children who have been the subject of indecent images, sexual exploitation, grooming, bullying, radicalisation or other forms of online abuse, are identified, protected and supported appropriately.
- To develop robust systems for preventing e-safety breaches, for reporting and recording concerns with clear thresholds for statutory responsibility.
- To monitor the development and evaluate the impact of our statement for keeping children and young people safe.

6. E-Safety Statement Management

This statement complements existing child protection procedures and any incident that is considered to be abusive will be progressed according to the London Safeguarding Children Board Child Protection Procedures (5th Edition).

The E-Safety statement will be reviewed every 2 years (or more often, in line with any developments or changes to legislation or statutory guidance). The review process will seek to involve representation from:

- Children's Services
- Schools and Colleges
- Health and Public Health
- Police
- Prevent
- Voluntary and Community groups

The Missing and Vulnerable Sub Group (on behalf of the HSCB) will ensure this statement is implemented and stay up to date with national technological and legal developments.

7. Governance

Governance and challenge will be provided by the Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board, with subgroups and task and finish groups to support the work of delivering the actions to support this Statement.

All Board Members are responsible to ensuring proactive support of the statement.

8. References

Camden Keeping Children Safe Online, E-Safety Policy and Guidance for Children's workforce, 2014

Department for Education (2016). "Keeping children safe in education. Statutory guidance for schools and colleges", Available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550511/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf

Merton - Supporting Merton's Young People to Stay Safe online – A e-safety statement, 2014.

NSPCC "Online Safety" Available at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

Redbridge Local Safeguarding Children Board E-safety Statement, 2013

"Technology Zip it, Block it, Flag it - what does it mean?" Available at:

http://www.childalert.co.uk/article.php?articles_id=26

Appendix 1

Key Links

CEOP - www.ceop.police.uk

ThinkUKnow - www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Childnet - www.childnet.com/cyberbullying-guidance

KnowItAll - www.childnet-int.org/kia

Disrespect Nobody - www.disrespectnobody.co.uk

UK Safer Internet Centre - www.saferinternet.org.uk

Internet Matters - www.internetmatters.org

The use of social media for online radicalisation –
www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-use-of-social-media-for-online-radicalisation

‘Growing up Digital’: A report from the Children's Commissioner's Growing Up Digital Taskforce January 2017 –

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publications/growing-digital>

Appendix 2.

The following is a practical approach to implementing e-safety for parents and professionals. To help children and young people to enjoy the internet safely, the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) has developed the Click Clever, Click Safe code.

The code has three simple actions:

- Zip it - keep your personal information private and think about what you say and do online
- Block it - block people who send you nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments
- Flag it - flag up with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline

It's easy to remember when talking to children about online safety and it's designed to help keep them safe on the internet.

ZIP IT

Make sure your child knows to always keep private information safe and watch what they say on the internet. People may not be who they say they are online and it's not always possible to control who can see your child's information.

Your child should know not to give out information like:

- their full name
- photos
- postal or email addresses
- school information
- mobile or home telephone numbers
- details of places they like to spend time

Make sure your child knows that they shouldn't arrange to meet people that they have only met online. Even if they have been chatting with someone for a while, that person is still a stranger.

You can help keep your child's information safe by setting privacy settings. This can restrict access to personal information and photos on things like social networking sites.

You should also encourage your child to use a nickname instead of their real name in chat rooms or on instant messaging services. To stop people accessing your child's online accounts, encourage them to keep their passwords secret, and to change them regularly.

BLOCK IT

Get your child to block people who send offensive messages and tell them not to open unknown links and attachments. They should delete any suspicious emails or attachments as they may contain something offensive or have a virus that can cause damage to the computer.

One of the main ways children can come across inappropriate content online is through search results. Most search engines include a 'safe search' option that excludes results containing inappropriate images or key words.

You can also install parental control software to filter out harmful and inappropriate content for computers and some mobile phones and games consoles.

FLAG IT

The final rule is that your child should come to you or a trusted adult if they are worried or unhappy about anything they see online. They should also do this if a friend they have made online has asked to meet them in the offline world.

If your child does experience inappropriate content online, report it to the website it appears on. UKCCIS has developed an internet safety 'one stop shop' with more information.

Source: http://www.childalert.co.uk/article.php?articles_id=26