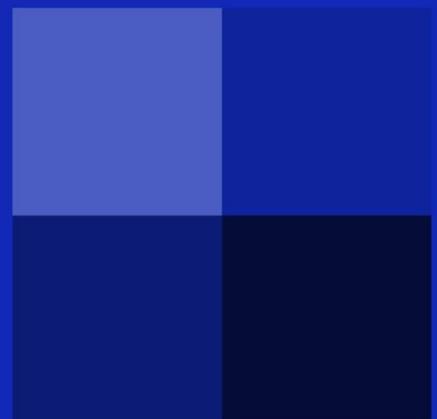


E-Safeguarding for Governors

E-Sussex, E-Safe

Safeguarding all children in East Sussex all the time



Making a start on E-safeguarding – a guide for Governors.

Background

For some time now, Ofsted have been inspecting e-safeguarding as part of the defining Safeguarding judgment in school inspections. From September 2014, the guidance to inspectors will be revised four times a year, and in the light of radicalisation cases in Birmingham, e-safeguarding is likely to be given a higher priority in the future.

As you know, no matter how excellent the teaching and learning is, fail safeguarding, and your school fails the inspection.

Inspecting teams are asking a range of stakeholders about e-safeguarding, including staff, parents and carers, and children. They expect to see a whole, wrap-around approach to e-safeguarding, and that your school is having a positive impact on e-safeguarding, in particular, the current questioning seems to be around:-

- How do governors know that their e-safeguarding policy is effective?
- How do governors monitor e-safeguarding?
- How does the school impact on e-safeguarding in the wider community?
- How does the school monitor its own network traffic for prohibited words, phrases and images?

This is not easy to demonstrate.

E-safeguarding, however is about far more than just passing an inspection. E-safeguarding is a very real element in safeguarding your school community. It is real – people can come to serious harm when e-safeguarding goes wrong.

Some questions you could ask.

- Is e-safeguarding on your school development plan?
- What reports do we as governors ask for in relation to e-safeguarding?
- How do we verify those reports, including gathering our own evidence – how might we do this?
- How do you know your school's e-safeguarding teaching is having an impact – not only in school, but also in the wider community, including student's homes?
- Are your practices as governors e-safe?
- How is network traffic and server content monitored in your school – who monitors it – how – how often?

Serious Case Reviews

No community can afford to be complacent about e-safeguarding. There have been a number of Serious Case Reviews affecting schools across the country from which we need to draw lessons. For example:-

In North Somerset, a teacher used the school server to store inappropriate images of children – and had done so for several years. The school concerned had no idea what was on their own server. This became the subject of a Serious Case Review.

Your school will...

- Be teaching and assessing e-safeguarding.
- Have a scheme of work that addresses the main areas of e-safeguarding.

E-Safeguarding for Governors

But what is the reality regarding e-safeguarding in your school and in your area? Sometimes it is very easy for children to give the right answers when tested, but then go home and do the exact opposite. It is the reality of e-safeguarding that should concern us – not getting 10/10 on the test.

This in turn means asking some serious questions.

- When did your school last have an e-safeguarding day?
- What e-safeguarding incidents have you had in school in the last term/academic year?
- Have any incidents of risk to children occurred that had an “E” element to them?
- Are our parents and carers aware of what e-safeguarding in the home should look like, including monitoring of activities, and access to age in appropriate games.
- When did your school last offer a parent evening on e-safeguarding?
- When did your school last undertake an e-safeguarding audit of its students, its staff, and its parents?
- Does someone in your school know where all the school ICT equipment is?
- How is data managed – particularly data taken off-site?
- How are images of children taken, stored and deleted when no longer needed?
- Is someone in your school charged with monitoring network content. (This is a huge area, and significantly time consuming.)

Ofsted publish guidance to the inspectors in their “section 5 Guidance”. This guidance, and the focus of inspectors changes regularly. (Three times a year at time of writing.) Visit <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk> and type “Inspecting e-safeguarding” into their search engine. This will take you to the zip file with all the Section 5 guidance.

For Governing Bodies in particular:-

- When did the Governors last have any input on e-safeguarding?
- How does the Governing Body monitor e-safeguarding in particular?
- How does the Governing Body hold the school to account?
- Are there links between e-safeguarding monitoring and changes to what the children are taught?
- What are your Key Performance Indicators with regard to e-safeguarding?

How we can help

Having an external consultant visit from time to time can be highly beneficial for all aspects of school life. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to e-safeguarding, and your needs will be unique. We can offer you consultancy visits, e-safeguarding days, staff development meetings, parent evenings and much more. What is more, we can tailor your training to fit your needs precisely.

Not sure where to start? Give us a call. (01273 482519) or email us at simstraining@eastsussex.gov.uk