

E-Safety Mark Assessor Report

School:	Wildern School
Date of assessment:	Tuesday 22 November 2016
Headteacher:	Mary-Lou Litton
School Contact Person:	Caroline Glover (Assistant E-Safety Co-ordinator)
Assessor:	Pete Hutchings

Element A – Policy and Leadership

The school's leadership has a clear understanding of e-safety and related issues. Specific responsibility has been delegated to an Assistant Headteacher who is ably supported by an assistant, and other colleagues within the ICT department. There is a governor responsible for e-safety and ICT who has the appropriate understanding to hold the school to account. There is also a student focus group for e-safety which takes an active part in promoting e-safety to the school community through posting to the school's e-safety blog, engaging in the development of the acceptable use policy and schemes of work, and participating in e-safety competitions and awareness raising events.

There is a clear e-safety policy, which is currently reviewed every two years, as well as coverage of e-safety considerations within ICT and Safeguarding policies. There is scope for more regular review of the policy and ensuring that there is a coherence to all policies that address e-safety issues. The regular use of surveys amongst both students and staff ensures that the e-safety curriculum and practices remain current and relevant.

The school recognises the benefit of using mobile technology to support learning and has recently reviewed and revised their policy regarding this.

Element B – Infrastructure

It is clear that the IT Manager and his team have a good understanding of the technical implications regarding e-safety. The school has a secure infrastructure with sound policies and procedures relating to areas such as password security, filtering, backup and disaster recovery.

Internet access is filtered using Smoothwall, and adjustments are made after school hours to accommodate community use of the site.

The school has yet to fully consider the filtering and monitoring requirements of the recent 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' revised guidance and ensure that current practice is appropriate for the level of risk at the school. Thought might also be given to whether to implement a more 'age appropriate' and granular filtering system. The plans to actively monitor vulnerable students are to be commended.

The requirements regarding data protection are well understood and laptops are in the process of being encrypted and sensible procedures are in place to ensure the security of the Chromebooks to be introduced for curriculum use.

Element C – Education

There is a structured programme of e-safety education and training which takes place at intervals throughout the school year. The main input is in ICT lessons with additional use made of assemblies and tutor time. The content is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure coverage of new areas of use and address specific issues. The regular pupil survey plays an important role in informing input and it is evident that the school is also able to respond quickly to any specific issue or incident.

E-safety sessions are put on for parents and they are kept updated through the e-safety blog and letters when appropriate. One parent commented that there was lots being done and that they “couldn’t ask for more”.

The school is also planning for increased engagement with the local community involving an e-safety input into the existing ICT lessons for senior citizens and visits to the local primary schools by members of the e-safety focus group. It is encouraging to see plans to use the Online Compass review tool with the school’s onsite community centre.

The school ensures that all staff receive regular e-safety training and e-mail updates. The training focuses on both their school and personal use of technology and applications. Some staff commented that this was often particularly challenging in highlighting previously unknown areas of potential personal risk.

Element D – Standards and Inspection

There are very clear structures within the school for reporting and addressing e-safety issues, whether they be pastoral, curriculum or technical, and all students and staff have a good understanding of the lines of responsibility and sources of assistance and advice that are available to them. SIMS is well used to record e-safety issues and particularly helpful is the school’s own eRef system which allows for the specific categorisation and recording of issues such as cyberbullying.

Areas of strength and good practice

- There is a very strong culture throughout the whole school community regarding e-safety. Students are fully aware of the issues, and staff appreciate and understand both their professional and personal responsibilities.
- There is a high level of student engagement with e-safety and they play an important role in shaping the curriculum as well as educating and informing both their peers and younger primary aged pupils.
- There is strong leadership of e-safety throughout the school. The development of a team approach has ensured a breadth of expertise and experience as well as the capacity to be proactive in enhancing e-safety awareness amongst students, staff and the wider community.

Areas for further development

- Continue to develop the security of the technical infrastructure through encryption and consider whether a more ‘age appropriate’ and granular filtering system would be appropriate. Ensure that the filtering and monitoring requirements of the recent ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ document have been considered and implemented as appropriate for the needs of the school.
- Review all current policies that relate to e-safety and ensure that there is a coherence and consistency across them all. Consider reviewing the e-safety policy annually.
- Explore further opportunities to share the school’s e-safety expertise both within the local community and further afield. This could include the development and use of the Online Compass review tool.

Assessor’s Recommendation

The school **has** reached the standards required to be awarded the E-Safety Mark