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By submitting your completed Assessment Form to the eSafety Label portal you have taken an important step towards analysing the status of eSafety in your school. Congratulations! Please read through your Action Plan carefully to see what you can do to improve eSafety further in your school. The Action Plan offers useful advice and comments, broken down into 3 key areas: infrastructure, policy and practice.

Infrastructure

Technical security

- > Your school system is protected by a firewall. Ensure that the provision and management of the firewall are regularly reviewed and updated, as and when required.
- It is important that your ICT services are regularly reviewed, updated and removed if no longer in use. Installing the latest versions and patches often addresses security vulnerabilities without which your services might come under attack. Ensure that this is part of the job description of the ICT coordinator.

Pupil and staff access to technology

- You should organise a meeting with other teachers so you can discuss how the school could use social media and digital devices as an aid to learning in the classroom. Look at the outcomes and report from the SMILE project (Social Media in Learning and Education, <u>http://www.eun.org/teaching/smile</u>) to learn more about using social media in the classroom.
- > Since staff and pupils can use their own equipment on your school network, it is important to make sure that the Acceptable Use Policy is reviewed regularly by all members of the school and adapted as necessary. It must be discussed with pupils at the start of each academic year so that they understand what is in place to protect them and their privacy, and why. Base the policy around behaviour rather than technology. Visitors must also read and sign the Acceptable Use Policy before they use the school's network.

Data protection

- It is good that your school provides training materials on the importance of protecting devices, especially portable ones. Please consider sharing those with others through the in . Also ensure that your materials are regularly reviewed to ensure they are in line with the state of the latest technology.
- It is good that your school records are stored in a safe environment, it is also necessary that they are archived and disposed with in line with the Data Protection Act. Ensure that a good records management system is put in place. Check the according fact sheet for more information.

You have a good policy of keeping your learning and administration environments separate. It is good to ensure that staff training on managing these environments is up to date as you continue to review your policies. Share your policy with other eSafety Label users by uploading it to your school profile.

Software licensing

- > Review the budget for software needs. You might also want to look into alternatives, e.g. Cloud services or open software.
- You need to make sure that all the software in your school is legally licensed and that copies of the licences are held centrally. You also need to check with whoever supports your IT systems that the software will not compromise system security. Your school should develop a clear policy for software acquisition and it is good practice to centralise this process wherever possible.

IT Management

 It is good practice to ensure that the person in charge of the ICT network is fully informed of what software is on school-owned hardware and this should be clearly indicated in the School Policy and the Acceptable Use Policy. The person responsible for the network needs to be able to guarantee conformity with licensing requirements and that new software won't interfere with network operation.

Policy

Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

- In your school policy issues are regularly discussed. This is good practice as it ensures staff and pupils are aware of them. Do pupils and staff also have to sign related documents to confirm their awareness?
- > It is important that school policies are up-to-date. Ensure that a mechanism is in place which ensures that they are revised at least once a year. Also ensure that they are revised when changes that could affect them are put into place.
- Regularly review the Mobile Phone Policy to ensure that it is fit for purpose and that it is being applied consistently across the school. The fact sheets on Using mobile phones at school (www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/using-mobile-device-in-schools) and School Policy (www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/school-policy) will provide helpful information.

Reporting and Incident-Handling

- It's good that you have a clear School Policy on handling out-of-school eSafety incidents; is the number of these declining? Start a discussion thread in the community on what other preventative measures or awareness raising activities could be used in order to reduce the number of issues further. Don't forget to anonymously document incidents on the Incident handling form (www.esafetylabel.eu/group/teacher/incident-handling), as this enables schools to share and learn from each other's strategies.
- It is good practice to log cyberbullying incidents that occur in your school centrally, as you are contributing to building a data base of successful incident handling practices from schools across Europe that you and others

can use in future. Make sure that pupils sign up to anti-bullying guidelines in your Acceptable Use Policy.

Staff policy

Ensure that all staff, including new members of staff, are aware of the policy concerning online conduct. This should be a topic that is regularly discussed at staff meetings and clearly communicated in the School Policy, and to staff and pupils in the Acceptable Use Policy. Regularly review and update both documents as necessary.

Pupil practice/behaviour

You have defined electronic communication guidelines in your Acceptable Use Policy and this would be a useful example of good practice for other schools. Can you create a tutorial about electronic communication guidelines for pupils and upload it to your school profile via your <u>My school area</u> so that other schools can benefit from your experience.

School presence online

- Review the policy on taking photographs of, and by, pupils, parents and staff and check that it reflects any recent developments. Ideally, the policy should focus on behaviour rather than specific technologies. The fact sheet on Taking and publishing photos and videos at school (www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/taking-and-publishing-photos-and-videos-at-school) will provide a good starting point.
- Regularly check the content of the school's online presence on social media sites to ensure that there are no inappropriate comments. Set up a process for keeping the site/page up to date, and check the fact sheet on Schools on social networks (www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/schools-on-social-networks) for further information to make sure that good practice guidelines have been followed. Get feedback from stakeholders about how useful the profile is.
- You have a dedicated person to monitor your school's online reputation, and this is good practice. Always be aware of any new sites that may not be immediately apparent through a regular search. Keep up to date with the latest sites and monitor these periodically, as they can be particularly damaging for schools and their pupils and staff if they present a negative viewpoint.

Practice

Management of eSafety

- It is good that all staff in your school are responsible for eSafety. However, it is good practice to appoint a person who will have overall responsibility for eSafety issues to provide the focus needed. Ideally this should be someone from the senior leadership team. Ensure that this person is involved in the development and regular review of your School Policy. She or he should not only be informed, but should also fill out the Incident handling form whenever an incident arises at www.esafetylabel.eu/group/teacher/incident-handling.
- > Technology develops rapidly. It is good practice that the member of staff responsible for ICT is regularly sent to trainings and/or conferences to be aware of new features and risks. Check out the <u>Better Internet for Kids portal</u> to stay up to date with the latest trends in the online world.

eSafety in the curriculum

- Sexting is an issue which affects many young people. Sharing possible consequences and risks with them is important, as is the opportunity for some discussion around the issue. Sexting should be part of a broad and balanced eSafety curriculum.
- It is good practice that all pupils in all year groups in your school are taught about eSafety. It continues to be important to review regularly the curriculum provision to ensure it meets ever-changing needs. If you have a curriculum review process of this kind, it would be helpful to other schools if you could publish this on your school profile. To upload go to your <u>My school area</u>.
- > You may want to consider including sexting in your child protection policy to help to ensure a consistent wholeschool approach to dealing with any incidents.
- It is very good that, in your school, pupils are taught from an early age on about responsibilities and consequences when using social media. Please share any resources through the uploading evidence tool, accessible also via the <u>My school area</u>.

Extra curricular activities Sources of support

- > All staff should have some responsibility for eSafety. School counsellors, nurses, etc. are all well placed to provide advice and guidance on these issues and should be invited to contribute to developing and regularly reviewing your School Policy. Make the maximum use of their knowledge and skills and consider whether it is appropriate to provide training for them.
- > Ask parents for feedback on the kind of eSafety support which is being provided for them and consider innovative ways to maximise the number of parents who are benefitting from, and accessing it. See the fact sheet Information for parents at <u>www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/information-for-parents</u> to find resources that could be circulated to parents and ideas for parent evenings.

Staff training

- Your school makes sure that every teacher is trained on cyberbullying. Please share resources that are used in these trainings via uploading them to your <u>My school area</u>. Are you also monitoring the effect that this training had on the number of incidents?
- It is good practise that you provide information to teachers on the technology used by pupils in their freetime. This is important as this awareness is the first step in addressing the issue of powering down for school. At the same time pupils should not be asked to do their homework using technology not available to them outside of schools. You might want to have a look at the <u>Essie Survey of ICT in schools</u>.

The Assessment Form you submitted is generated from a large pool of questions. It is also useful for us to know if you are improving eSafety in areas not mentioned in the questionnaire. You can upload evidence of such changes via the <u>Upload evidence</u> on the <u>My school area</u> section of the eSafety Portal. Remember, the completion of the Assessment Form is just one part of the Accreditation Process, because the upload of evidence, your exchanges with others via the

Forum, and your reporting of incidents on the template provided are all also taken into account.

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