



School: Mersey Park Primary School

Date of assessment: 25th April 2019

Assessor: Rob Musker

Headteacher: Margaret Thomas

Moderator:
(if applicable)

School Contact Person: Samantha Griffith

Element A – Policy and Leadership

Management of online safety throughout the whole school is exemplary. The Safeguarding procedures, including online safety, are highly effective and the school environment is one that nurtures and promotes pupil well-being and safety. There is a shared vision and commitment to this area of safeguarding that ensures very positive outcomes for pupils. The Staff and governors understand what is needed to maintain high standards and that there are areas that can be further developed.

An online safety group has been created to inform practice and make strategic decisions about the area of safeguarding. The group has a wide representation and the online safety leader understands how to further develop the inclusivity of this group. There is already a team of anti-bullying pupil ambassadors and the school has been awarded the 'Antibullying Quality Mark' (Silver Award) for its work in this area.

The online safety policy is developed with the consultation of staff and pupils. It is widely shared and understood by all stakeholders including governors and even the wider community via the website. Policies and agreements for Social Networking, Prevent and the use of mobile phone and other devices have also been developed and shared.

Staff and governors have a firm understanding of the online safety procedures and the actions that would be taken if there was any issues. Pupils understand the school online safety rules (SMART rules) and can also explain their class-based rule system (Online Safety recipes). Pupils have a good grasp of the schools online safety rules and regulations and can discuss sanctions relating to using the Internet and those regarding phone use.

Element B – Infrastructure

The school-based infrastructure is managed by MGL while the broadband service which includes a filtering solution is provided by Wirral Council. The school network is 'flat' and data and information can be obtained from any device dependent on the permission system. BitLocker encryption is used on staff laptops. The laptops stay in school and information can be taken away used encrypted USB drives. Changes to the filtering system are carried out by contacting the Local Authority and the school may consider whether they may prefer to have the ability to change and edit their filtering at all times instantly in school. The school employs an extra monitoring tool, eSafe. The Headteacher is provided with a weekly report and any issues are acted on immediately and communicated to governors.

There is a Data Protection Officer and an up-to-date Data Protection Policy. Key personnel have good knowledge and understanding of GDPR and this has been communicated to staff. Data and information is stored on servers and not on individual devices. The servers are



backed up in several ways including storing them securely offsite.

There are also copies saved to external drives, one of which is stored in the safe.

There is a good understanding of the password policy by both pupils and staff. Staff passwords are changed every three months and they have been shown how to encrypt emails and documents. Pupils have different passwords for the different systems they use in school (e.g. the school network, Purplemash ...). The pupils understand the importance of creating and using strong passwords.

Element C – Education

There is an extensive online safety curriculum using a wide range of resources which the pupils find engaging. This covers a range of key topics but in this ever evolving area of the curriculum, there are a few areas that could be further developed such as Fake News and the commercial aspects of the web. The school has also provided extra enrichment activities for online safety such as 'One Day Creative' drama performances, 'Captain Digi and her E-safety ship' and the 'Internet Safety Roadshow'.

Communication with parents and carers and the support given to families is impressive and a real strength of the school. The school uses a variety of channels to promote parental engagement such as Anomaly noticeboards in the playground, text messaging, the use of social media such as Twitter and parental information sessions run by the pupils. When extra support is needed, staff send specific information to the class/classes or pupil involved. Parents appreciate the support they get and are very positive and enthusiastic when talking about the school.

A further strength of the school is the way they provide opportunities for their pupils to take extra responsibilities and develop as individuals. The school has eSafety Cadets in every year group from Year 1 to 6. The eSafety Cadets are part of the online safety group and are asked to make active decisions regarding the curriculum. They are also consulted about a range of online safety matters such as the online safety policy and parental liaison. There is also a peer mentoring buddy system which allows younger pupils to ask for support on any issues, including online safety.

There is a training programme for staff and governors. Teaching staff are updated at the start of the year and then receive regular online or digital support on current online safety issues. Governors and parents have access to online training. This training is monitored so the school can see what has been completed.

Element D – Standards and Inspection

The school has developed effective monitoring, reporting and evaluation strategies for online safety. A key part of this, is the use of surveys with parents and pupils. The parent surveys have allowed the school to gauge the issues and concerns of their parents and the effectiveness of their parental engagement. The pupil surveys inform the online safety leader regarding the progress of pupils and to ascertain areas of the curriculum that need more support. The online safety policy is widely shared with feedback taken from staff, governors and pupils via the eSafety Cadets. This approach means that the implementation of the policy and the online safety processes outlined is very effective.



The school monitors the use of the Internet using the eSafe software system. Regular reports to the Headteacher allow the school to act on issues that arise. The reports are saved and allow trends to be seen. This information is discussed with governors. There are very few issues across the school. The school has several other channels to pick up on pupil issues and views. Some of these systems can be anonymous and include boxes for pupil messages (The Bother, Sorry and Happy Boxes) and an online tool 'A Place to Talk'. The responses and other issues are dealt with promptly.

Areas of strength and good practice

- Management of online safety – including integration into whole school safeguarding practices.
- Parental engagement and support
- Pupil curriculum enrichment and opportunities

Areas for further development

- Online Safety curriculum - Consideration of the commercial aspects of the web and fake news
- Continued development of the school's community links.

Assessor's Recommendation

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