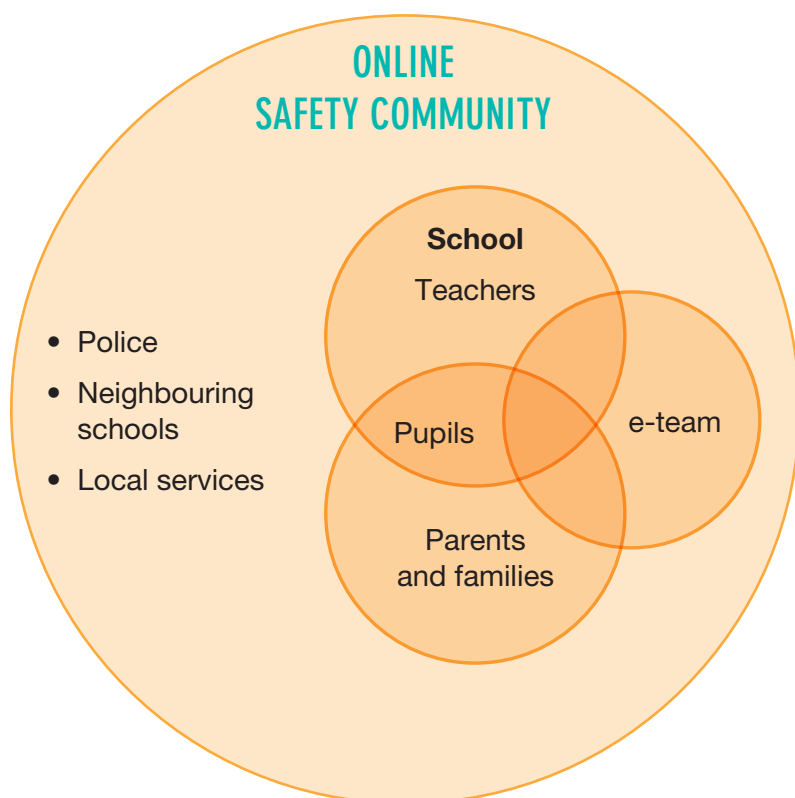


# Building an online safety community

In order to ensure online safety is effectively embedded in your school, it is key to engage with all members of the school community including teachers, pupils, parents/carers and governors. This will help to form a shared vision of a positive online community that reflects positive behaviour offline (where everyone is modelling positive behaviour and respecting one another).



*An online safety community*

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Online safety should be led by the school Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and team.

**Note:** *It is not appropriate to designate the responsibility of online safety to your computing or ICT lead unless they are a member of the safeguarding team.*

The DSL should have a job description and this should include responsibility for online safety.

### Governors

The governing body should be actively engaged in the online safety policies and practice.

They should ensure they ask the relevant questions of their school around online safety: [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/562876/Guidance\\_for\\_School\\_Governors\\_-\\_Question\\_list.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/562876/Guidance_for_School_Governors_-_Question_list.pdf)

## Forming an e-team

One way of helping to form a cohesive attitude to online safety across the school community is through the use of an e-team.

An e-team is a council of pupils from your school that meet with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) regularly to discuss online safeguarding issues. Your school e-team is an essential unit that will link school with the rest of the community and model positive online behaviour.

There are different models for this. The e-team can be made up of:

- children from every year group
- children from Key Stage 2 only
- children from Upper Key Stage 2 only.

The responsibilities of an e-team might include:

- managing online safety displays
- contributing to an online safety page on the school website
- providing a pupil voice
- creating an e-team newsletter
- being a point of contact for other children in school
- delivering key messages in sessions for parents
- helping to develop school rules and boundaries
- developing ideas for positive use of technology
- helping to develop and present key initiatives throughout the year, e.g. a Safer Internet Day
- holding a regular drop-in session for children who may have concerns.

The key principles of setting up an e-team are as follows:

- E-teams should be supported by a teacher who can manage and provide enthusiasm for the scheme.
- Make sure you run regular meetings.
- Children should apply for a role within the e-team by filling out a form on the school website.
- Provide all e-team members with badges.
- Provide the e-team with an area on the school website and perhaps also in the school newsletter.

## SCHOOL'S PARENT ASSOCIATION

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It is important to engage with your school's parent association and ensure they are modelling positive online behaviour to encourage other parents to do so.

This might be via communication on a social media platform such as Facebook or WhatsApp.

## DEVELOPING A SCHOOL PRESENCE ONLINE

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Your school's online presence is extremely important as it is a window for those outside of your school community to engage with what you do. This is an opportunity to showcase all the fantastic teaching and learning within your school. This might be through your school website, Twitter or Facebook.

It is well worth searching for your school on Google and other social media to check what information is available on your school. This will then allow you to manage your presence positively.

For more information about managing your school's online reputation see:  
[www.lgfl.net/online-safety/resource-centre?s=24](http://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/resource-centre?s=24)

## TRAINING/SESSIONS WITH TEACHERS

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Staff training should be in line with advice from your Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). This should take place at least once a year.

It should include initiatives and publications such as guidance from the DfE: *Keeping children safe in education*.

## PROMOTING ONLINE SAFETY LEARNING THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL

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Consider ways in which online safety learning can be promoted through the whole school. For example, through:

- online safety displays
- Twitter tweets
- an online safety area on your website
- sharing information through newsletters
- running competitions, e.g. to create slogans/logos
- having conversations with other schools in your area to develop a community-wide approach to online safety.

You might consider displaying reminders of key whole-school policies such as mobile phone use, or YouTube by teachers only, around the school.