Merton Safeguarding Children Board

Supporting Merton's young people to stay safe online

An e-safety strategy

2014-2015

1.0 Foreword

Helping children and young people to stay safe online will always be a major priority for the Merton Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB). As technology changes so new risks appear. We recognise that this can be a source of considerable anxiety to parents and anyone who is responsible for the welfare of young people. We will continue to work hard as a Board with our partner agencies to keep up with such a rapidly moving scene. This strategy is designed to provide guidance and support to organisations such as schools, youth providers, voluntary and community sector groups in developing their own responses to the risks to the young people they deal with, and to particularly to ensure the most vulnerable are protected from harm.

This strategy is a revised version of that published on Safer Internet Day 2012, and it will continue to be reviewed regularly by the Board to ensure that our knowledge is up to date and our work effective. How well we are doing will then be publically available through the MSCB's annual reports, published in September each year.

Independent Chair, Merton Safeguarding Children Board

1.1 What is e-safety?

e-safety is a term which encompasses not only the internet but other ways in which young people communicate using electronic media, e.g. smart phones, gaming consoles. It means ensuring that children and young people are protected from harm and supported to achieve the maximum benefit from new and developing technologies without risk to themselves or others.

The aim is to protect young people from the adverse consequences of access or use of electronic media, including from bullying, inappropriate sexualised behaviour or exploitation.

Appropriate use of electronic media by service provider staff and professionals is covered by other protocols and procedures with individual services and organisations. Most agencies will already have an 'appropriate or acceptable use' policy in place, and all should be encouraged to develop one.

1.2 Approach

To provide guidance and inform front line practitioners to:

- Guide children, young people and others to the best sources of information and support and not duplicate the great range of advice and resources already available.
- Help organisations to develop their own solutions, and incorporate the principles and priorities in this strategy into those.
- Identify those young people potentially vulnerable.
- Make sure that risk is assessed and managed effectively.
- Make sure that young people understand their own risks in using online services.

1.3 Consultation

Merton Primary Schools Council
Young People
Harris Academy Merton
Schools Headteacher
MSCB partners

2. e-safety issues and scope of the strategy

The strategy covers the following aspects of e-safety:

- Cyber-bullying, including sexual bullying.
- Safe use of social networking, e.g. Facebook, X-Box Live, messaging – SnapChat, Instagram, Vine, WhatsApp etc.

- Pornography and violent images – accessibility and inappropriate use by young people.
- Grooming by strangers and known contacts, including trusted adults.
- Real time communications including texts, e.g. 'sexting', chat rooms, email, instant messaging, video chat etc.
- Support for parents and carers and their role and responsibilities.
- Support for young people, particularly the more vulnerable; and, ensuring that young people are aware of the risks and do not endanger their 'online reputation' by their activity.
- Training for professionals and practitioners.
- Communications infrastructure – working to developing managed online environments for young people rather than blanket blocking policies.

3. Principles of e-safety in Merton

A fundamental principle is that the best people to support young people in their e-safety are other young people; as they understand the risks and issues, and know what young people are actually doing online. Young people will be helped set up their own structures and resources to help other young people.

Rather than duplicate existing work, there is a wealth of advice and support available to young people, parents/carers and professionals available nationally. This should be signposted for people in Merton, principally through the MSCB webpages: Staying safe online: http://www.merton.gov.uk/health-social-care/children-family-health-social-care/lscb/e-safety.htm

Schools and other young people's organisations will be encouraged and supported to ensure that e-safety is at the heart of their efforts to safeguard young people, including identification of those who may be vulnerable. This should be both as a part of the PHSE curriculum and other pastoral care.

The MSCB supports **Zip It, Block It, Flag It** – the **Click Clever, Click Safe Code**

Launched in 2010 for Safer Internet Day, the code features three simple and memorable actions to remember.

ZIP IT means keeping their personal stuff private and thinking about what they say or do online.

BLOCK IT reminds them to block people who send them nasty messages and not to open any links and attachments they receive by email or through social networks if they're not 100 per cent sure they're safe.

FLAG IT is the final piece of advice. It stands for flagging up to a parent, guardian, teacher or someone in authority anything that upsets them while they are online or if someone asks them to meet up in the real world.

See Appendix A for information and guidance for young people and adults.

4. Priorities

1   Encouraging young people to support other young people and that they are signposted to the best advice.

2   Ensuring parents and carers are signposted to the best advice.

3   Ensuring professionals are signposted to the best advice, particularly existing IT policies.

4   Ensuring schools and all groups working with young people have support in managing risk in e-safety, including how to identify potentially vulnerable young people.

5   Ensuring high quality training is available and taken up by professionals and all appropriate people working with children and young people.

5. Monitoring and accountability – Action Plan

The Merton Safeguarding Children Board will receive a full report on activity annually, and delivery of the strategy will be overseen by the Policy & Communications subgroup of the Board.

Delivery and guidance in e-safety across Merton will be the responsibility of various groups of professionals, particularly in schools and other young people's settings, with the support of, LB Merton Schools ICT Support Team (SMISST), the MSCB and the Anti-Bullying & e-safety working group:

- Schools IT Managers Forum
- Schools Approved ICT Support Suppliers forum
- Schools Business Manager Forum
- Designated Teachers for Child Protection Meeting

6. Action Plan

	Action	Priority	Who?	Resources
1	Signpost web and online resources for young people	Encouraging young people to support other young people and are signposted to the best advice.	Schools LB Merton Schools ICT Support Team (SMISST)	MSCB
2	Signpost web and online resources for parents and carers	Ensuring parents and carers are signposted to the best advice.	Schools LB Merton Schools ICT Support Team (SMISST)	MSCB
3	Developing web and online resources for schools and young people's organisations	Ensuring schools and all groups working with young people have support in managing risk in e-safety, including how to identify potentially vulnerable young people.	Schools	MSCB Schools
4	Support for schools e-safety policies, including encouragement for all to accept LGfL guidelines	Ensuring schools and all groups working with young people have support in managing risk in e-safety, including how to identify potentially vulnerable young people.	Schools LB Merton Schools ICT Support Team (SMISST) Virtual Behaviour Service	Core budgets
5	Signpost and develop the training offer for schools and other settings	Ensuring schools and all groups working with young people have support in managing risk in e-safety, including how to identify potentially vulnerable young people.	MSCB Training Manager Vulnerable Children Team	Core budgets
6	Develop support structures to enable better identification of potentially vulnerable young people	Ensuring schools and all groups working with young people have support in managing risk in e-safety, including how to identify potentially vulnerable young people.	Virtual Behaviour Service Schools	Core budgets
7	Develop monitoring lines to MSCB including an annual report		MSCB Policy & Communications Subgroup	Core budgets

Appendix A. Click Clever Click Safe code. Zip It! Block It! Flag It!

Teaching your children how to use the internet safely is just as important as teaching them how to cross the road using the Green Cross rules.

So when your youngsters are online, whether alone or with you by their side, it's also as crucial to explain to them why they should stick to the **Click Clever Click Safe** code.

Launched in 2010 for Safer Internet Day, the code features three simple and memorable actions to remember.

ZIP IT means keeping their personal stuff private and thinking about what they say or do online.

BLOCK IT reminds them to block people who send them nasty messages and not to open any links and attachments they receive by email or through social networks if they're not 100 per cent sure they're safe.

FLAG IT is the final piece of advice. It stands for flagging up to a parent, guardian, teacher or someone in authority anything that upsets them while they are online or if someone asks them to meet up in the real world.

Following these three simple statements will not only keep your child safe, it will also help ensure your computer is safe from viruses, spam and malware that could steal your identity, money from your bank account or delete precious photos and videos stored on your hard drive.

Three quarters of young people say they couldn't live without the internet with a quarter admitting it would be the first place they turn for advice on alcohol, drugs, sex, finance and health.

Those findings by YouthNet prove just how the web is an increasing daily part of a young person's life.

But with nearly a fifth of those youngsters who have accessed the internet coming across something harmful or inappropriate (Staying Safe Survey, 2009) the need for a simple set of actions is obvious.

That's where Click Clever Click Safe comes in.

It is designed for both parents and children with useful advice for each. Here are some of the key bits to remember.

Advice for adults

Zip it

- People may not be who they say they are online so ensure children realise that adults do pretend to be children in chatrooms and on instant messaging systems.

- Set privacy controls to restrict access by strangers to your child's social network account. Remember, they should not be on Facebook unless they are over 13.

- Be aware that even the smallest piece of personal information placed online could be used to identify them.

Block it

Use filters, parental controls and security settings on mobile phones and games consoles as well as on your computer.

Set preferences on search engines to prevent them looking for inappropriate material. This can block the use of certain keywords.

Sit with your child and make sure they know how to delete emails, or remove people from instant messengers.

Flag it

Encourage your children to talk to a trusted adult if they don't feel they want to discuss a problem encountered online with you.

Remind them never to meet anyone in the offline world that they have met online without you going with them.

Make them aware of the ClickCEOP buttons placed on the likes of Facebook and Windows Live Messenger. This allows them to report inappropriate sexual behavior towards them directly to the authorities.

Advice for children

Zip it

Never tell people online what school you go to, your home address or place stuff like your email details or mobile phone number on social network profiles.

Use a nickname in chatrooms and for instant messaging instead of your real name.

Don't give out your passwords, even to friends, to prevent yourself becoming a victim of cyber bullying.

Block it

Always delete emails from people you don't know and never open attachments or click on links unless you can be 100 per cent sure what they are. They could hide a virus.

Learn how to block and delete anyone you come into contact with who makes you feel scared, worried, uncomfortable or just doesn't seem right.

Flag it

If you don't feel you can talk to your parents about something encountered online, then speak to a teacher, adult relative or a friend's parent. Or call free to Childline on 0800 1111.

Never meet anyone you only know in the online world. Just because they say they are a child or teenager, it doesn't mean they are.

Don't be afraid to report someone who upsets you online. See www.ceop.police.uk/ for more advice.

Source: Talk Talk   http://www.talktalk.co.uk/security/zip-it-block-it-flag-it.html

The Click Clever, Click Safe code – information for young people

The internet is a great way to see more, learn more and have lots of fun. To help you enjoy it safely, you should follow the 'Click Clever, Click Safe' code. It's just three simple things to remember that can help keep you safe when you visit your favourite websites.

Protect your own safety

The 'Click Clever Click Safe' code is a list of three simple things to remember when you're online:

ZIP IT   BLOCK IT   FLAG IT

Zip it

When you're online, always keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do.

Remember that people online may not be who they say they are. Online friends are still strangers, even if you have been talking to them for a long time.

Don't share personal information online. This includes:

- your full name
- photos
- addresses
- school information
- telephone numbers
- places you like to spend time

Make sure you have set your privacy settings to restrict access to personal information. When you use chat rooms or instant messenger, use a nickname instead of your real name. To stop people accessing your online accounts, always keep your passwords secret and change them regularly.

Block it

Think about blocking people who send you nasty messages, and don't open unknown links and attachments.

Always delete emails from people you don't know, and don't open attachments from people you don't know. They might be nasty or contain a virus that can stop your computer working. If someone is mean or sends nasty messages online, block them.

Flag it

If you see that anything upsets online or if someone asks to meet up with you, flag it up with someone you trust. If you are worried or unhappy about anything you see online, tell a parent or an adult you trust and they can help you. If you want to talk to someone else, you can call -

- Childline 0800 1111

If a friend you have made online asks to meet you in the offline world, talk to your parents or a trusted adult about it. You should never meet up with someone you have met online without an adult going with you because it is dangerous.

If someone you know is being nasty to someone online, speak to a parent or trusted adult about it.

Source: www.nidirect.gov.uk