

Stanah Primary School receives award for E-Safety

Robert Musker, a national assessor for online safety recently visited Stanah School to review the school's e-safety provision. Rob Musker met school staff, parents and carers, Governors and several of Stanah's students, including members of the school council and was very pleased to find that Stanah school provides a high level of protection for users of technologies.

Over the last two years Mrs Sims and the staff at Stanah have been working to create and embed an effective e-safety curriculum. To do this they have used an online tool called 360 which has allowed them to judge their current level of e- safety and the next steps to take. This tool has been instrumental in their evaluations as it has been developed to help schools address e-safety issues, not least the changes to Ofsted inspections, which include a stronger focus on safeguarding. The online tool allows schools to evaluate their e-safety policy and practice and then suggests how the school might do more to protect young people and staff.

To apply for the 360 degree safe E-Safety Mark, schools have to reach a series of benchmark levels when they complete the online self review. The evidence is then verified by a visit from experienced Assessors.

The prime benefit of using the review and applying for the E-Safety Mark is that it does not focus on the individual aspects of e-safety such as technological solutions, but instead it integrates e-safety into school policy and the curriculum, challenging teachers and managers in the school to think about their provision and its continual evolution.

Schools are expected to show that they have provided a high standard of e-safety education and awareness for all staff , pupils and also for parents and carers, to ensure that these users of the new technologies can be safe online – whether they are in school, in their homes or out and about using mobile phones or other handheld devices.

Following his visit the Assessor reported that

The senior management within the school place a high priority on online safety. The subject leader for online safety is a member of the SLT is well supported by the headteacher. Pupils, governors, teachers and SLT are all part of the process in developing online safety in the school. The online safety leader liaises on online safety matters with pupils via the school council. Results from these meetings can then be passed on to other members of SLT and governors.

The school has a well-developed evaluation process that informs policy, curriculum and even parental support. Regular questionnaires for classes and some pupil-based surveys provide information about pupils' online use. Results from these allow the school to support both the pupils and parents. For example, a survey informed that a significant number of pupils in one year group were using Snapchat and Instagram. The school informed the parents about their findings and provided them with up-to-date information regarding these tools, so they could fully understand the issues pertaining to accessing them.

Training of teaching staff is a strength of the school. Staff have regular training sessions to update their knowledge. They also have training to highlight changes in online safety policies and other updates are sent electronically. Regular pupil questionnaires mean that teaching staff are informed about changes in pupils' use of the Internet. Some one-to-one training has also taken place to ensure specific staff have the appropriate skills and confidence in this area, for example for a teaching assistant who support pupils with

additional needs. Training on issues associated with online safety such as extremism have also been carried out this year.

Parental support for online safety is a strength of the school. What makes it a strength is the number of different approaches that have been employed to support parents. The school has provided training for parents and carers on several different occasions this year, including a transition evening for Year 6 parents. The school also uses leaflets, letters, the school newsletter and the school website to disseminate information.

Ron Richards, Lead Assessor for the 360 degree safe E-Safety Mark has congratulated our school on its success and commented that it was re-assuring to know that the school had put a lot of thought and effort into improving the on-line safety of the staff and young people, by addressing these important safeguarding issues.