

School: Hamp Nursery and Infants School

Date of assessment: 04/12/24

Assessor: Amy Brittan

Headteacher: Mary Weatherburn

School Contact Person: Michelle Foord

## Element A – Policy and Leadership

The school has a strong commitment to Online Safety as a core part of safeguarding. The Online Safety Lead (OSL) is a member of the senior leadership team and leads an engaged and effective Online Safety Group comprising of key staff, including the Head/DSL and Online Safety Governor/Parent. They have regular formal meetings to identify current risks and actions and communicate regularly over email with updates.

The OSL spoke passionately about the importance of Online Safety within safeguarding, and how Online Safety has become a core part of the school's provision, particularly since the COVID lockdowns. The school have identified the current issues facing their children and parents such as an imbalance of time spent online, and children experiencing age-inappropriate content. The OSL has addressed these issues through curriculum activities; drip-feeding Online Safety messages through other learning; assemblies; conversations, and well-attended parent workshops.

It was a pleasure to meet with the Digital Leaders (representing Year 1 and 2) during the assessment morning. They are an enthusiastic and knowledgeable group of children who clearly value their role within the school to promote Online Safety. They are selected by their teachers and include children who are developing their own confidence and understanding of messages, as well as children who have a good level of knowledge. There is a Digital Leader display in the school, and they have supported the OSL with surveys and assemblies.

Members of staff spoke about how there was an overall ethos in the school of supporting parents in a non-judgemental and positive manner, reflecting the fact that the school *'feels like a family'* to many staff and parents. Staff spoke about how they would follow the incident flowchart if they became aware of an issue with a child, ensuring that the right person (OSL, class teacher, or Home School Link Worker) could give the right support, at the right time, in the right way.

Staff understand that everyone has a part to play in promoting Online Safety to children and spoke about the importance of everyone giving clear and consistent messages to families through a range of methods such as the school Facebook page, website, Google Classroom, or workshops. Online Safety is a standing item on the staff meeting agenda, ensuring it remains at the forefront of the school's safeguarding considerations.

The school have excellent documentation including an up-to-date Online Safety policy that reflects the school's processes and procedures, and acceptable user policies signed by all staff.

### Element B – Education

The school provides Online Safety learning opportunities through regular lessons (using the eLIM ActiveBytes curriculum) and assemblies lead by the OSL supported by the Digital Leaders. Staff are clear on the current risks to children and how the curriculum (linked with the 'Building Habits' poster and guidance) can reinforce important messages such as balancing behaviours, moving around, and sharing their learning / concerns with a trusted adult.

The Digital Leaders gave practical examples of their learning including dealing with pop-ups on screen and choosing the right game to play. They were also able to share the lessons they had learned from the Digiduck story, such checking before sharing photos and making sure a trusted adult knows what you're doing online.

Staff and governors have received recent Online Safety training, and this training is built into the overall CPD programme so that it is repeated regularly. The OSL completed a staff survey to assess the confidence of staff in delivering the curriculum. She spoke about the importance of staff *'feeling the same way I do about Online Safety'* to ensure that there is consistency across the year groups.

The school understands that there is a diverse parental community, with parents having a range of confidence in supporting their child online. Several of the staff have their own children at the school and have used this connection to relate to other parents – the OSL spoke about how she can talk from experiences with her own child (*'this works for me, so it may work for you'*) and how this can support parents who may be worried about being judged.

The school use a palette of tools to communicate with parents about Online Safety, including sharing learning activities on Google Classroom, sharing updates and tips on the Facebook page, sharing quality resources for Online Safety on the school website, and including regular features in newsletters. Parents spoke very highly of the support they had received and appreciated its quality and consistency (*'you can go to any staff member and get the right help and support'*).

### Element C – Technology

Hamp Nursery and Infants School receive technical support from an external technician, and filtering from another provider. The school have been proactive in seeking out filtering and monitoring tools to help them meet the requirements of KCSIE.

The Headteacher keeps a close eye on the school's web traffic with the support of the technician. A recent search by the Home-School Liaison Worker for The Samaritans was instantly picked up by the Headteacher to check for any concerns.

During the interviews, children and staff spoke about how they would seek support if they felt concerned about something they had seen online. Staff described the filtering as *'very strong'* and had not experienced any content leaking through the filters, but they understood their responsibility to check content in advance and follow the school's staff acceptable use agreement (signed annually).

All staff have had recent data protection training where they were reminded of the importance of keeping passwords complex and secure, not using external hard drives, or memory sticks, and checking whether their email address or password had been the subject of a data breach.

### Element D – Outcomes

All staff at Hamp are clear about reporting routes and their responsibilities if there is an Online Safety incident. Teachers and support staff speak confidently about the way the Online Safety policy is embedded within other policies such as safeguarding and behaviour.

The OSL has used the 360Safe tool for self-review over a sustained period of time, which has enabled Hamp to implement an action plan, reflect on progress, and ensure that their provision meets the specific needs of the current cohort.

### Areas of strength and good practice

- **Online Safety embedded in safeguarding:** The OSL and school leaders have committed to ensuring that have ensured that Online Safety is fully integrated into the school's safeguarding procedures. Staff talk clearly Online Safety incident management, and children and parents trust that staff will resolve incidents effectively.
- **Positive relationships with families:** The school have a high awareness of what's happening in the lives of their families and children, and the Online Safety issues parents have, such as the safe use of YouTube and Netflix. Parents feel that the school is '*approachable and supportive*', without judgement, and always focusing on a successful resolution for the child and family.
- **Age-appropriate, consistent yet flexible curriculum:** The school has implemented a curriculum that reflects the needs of their young learners. There is a clear focus on building positive technology habits from an early age, so these stay with the child throughout their school life, and this is supported by regular learning experiences using language and resources that they can understand.

### Areas for further development

- **Developing connections with the local community:** we spoke about how Hamp Nursery and Infants could connect with the neighbouring Hamp Academy (Junior School) to share Digital Leader experiences and prepare Year 2 children for Year 3. This needs further thought about the best way to engage with the Academy, which is an entirely separate setting, but parents were particularly keen that Hamp Nursery and Infants should share their good practice to ensure consistency of support and messaging.



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- **Sharing Online Safety messages with parents through workshops:** The school already offer Online Safety workshops to parents, which have been well-attended and are a testament to the trusted relationships they have with families. We discussed how the school could consider offering Programming / Computing workshops, to attract parents who may be less comfortable discussing Online Safety, to model safe use of technology in a different way.

### **Additional Comments**

The school should be especially commended for their work building excellent relationships with families, and how they have used these relationships creatively, to promote positive conversations around Online Safety. The OSL and school leadership have worked extremely hard to establish a culture where Online Safety is fully embedded in safeguarding.

### **Assessor's Recommendation**

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