

eSafety Label - Action Plan

Action plan submitted by Tuğba Kaya for Işıktepe Rüveyde Dörtçelik Ortaokulu - 27.11.2023 @ 13:02:48

By submitting your completed Assessment Form to the eSafety Label portal you have taken an important step towards analysing the status of eSafety in your school. Congratulations! Please read through your Action Plan carefully to see what you can do to improve eSafety further in your school. The Action Plan offers useful advice and comments, broken down into 3 key areas: infrastructure, policy and practice.

Infrastructure

Technical security

- It is very good that all your school devices are virus protected. Make sure you also have included a paragraph on virus protection in both your school policy and your Acceptable Use Policy, and ensure that staff and pupils rigorously apply school guidelines. If you need further information, check out the fact sheet on Protecting your devices against malware at www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/protecting-your-devices-against-malware.
- > It is good practice that your ICT services are regularly reviewed, updated and removed if no longer in use.

Pupil and staff access to technology

- > To have a policy that does not allow staff and pupils to use USB sticks is sensible and cautious but sometimes there are instances when use of USBs/removable media might be acceptable. To ensure that secure systems are maintained to the highest standards, include in your Acceptable Use Policy some information on use of removable storage devices. Check the fact sheet on Use of removable devices at www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/use-of-removable-devices to make sure you cover all security aspects.
- > It is great that in your school laptops/tablets are easily accessible within a lesson. Using them provides best practise for pupils in dealing with new media. Ensure that safety issues are also discussed.
- There are clear advantages for staff and pupils to bring their personal devices to school and to access internet on them. Besides supplementing the technical equipment available at school, this provides an important link between learning at home and at school and an opportunity to guide young people in responsible use.

 However, staff and pupil use of their own equipment on the school network needs to be addressed in an Acceptable Use Policy so that users are clear about which networks they should use and why. The Acceptable Use Policy needs to include clear guidance about which activities are permitted while on the school network, and what is not allowed.

Data protection

> Passwords offer unique entry points into the school computing system and some basic rules of password security should be rigorously applied. For further information, read the fact sheet on Safe passwords at

www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/safe-passwords.

Include these rules in your Acceptable User Agreement and avoid giving new users a standard "first access" password.

Software licensing

It is good practise that the member of staff responsible is fully aware of installed software and their license status.

IT Management

- > It is good practise that your are training and/or providing guidance in the use of new software that is installed on school computers. This ensures that school members will take advantage of new features, but also that they are aware of security and data protection issues where relevant.
- > It is good practice to ensure that the person in charge of the ICT network is fully informed of what software is on school-owned hardware and this should be clearly indicated in the School Policy and the Acceptable Use Policy.

 The person responsible for the network needs to be able to guarantee conformity with licensing requirements and that new software won't interfere with network operation.
- > In your school only the head master and/or IT responsible can acquire new software. Consider putting a system into place where teachers can ask for new software in a non-bureaucratic and timely fashion. This allows teachers to create a more engaging lesson without the temptation of unauthorized copying and its inherent dangers and costs.

Policy

Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

> It is important that school policies are up-to-date. Ensure that a mechanism is in place which ensures that they are revised at least once a year. Also ensure that they are revised when changes that could affect them are put into place.

Reporting and Incident-Handling

- Keep a central log of any cyberbullying incidents which will help to inform staff about the extent of any potential issues and the type of pupil, age etc. that are affected. Also, be sure that you fill in the eSafety Label Incident handling form. Your input will contribute to building a data base of successful incident-handling practices from schools across Europe that you can use in the future.
- It is important to have a school-wide policy on handling issues when pupils knowingly or even inadvertently access illegal or offensive material online, since standards and practices can vary considerably from one teacher to the next. Guidance on this topic is provided on the <u>teachtoday.de/en</u> website (<u>tinyurl.com/9j86v84</u>). If such incidents arise in your school, make sure you anonymously fill out the eSafety Label Incident handling form (<u>www.esafetylabel.eu/group/teacher/incident-handling</u>) so that other schools can benefit from your experience.
- > Consider making the policy on 'Online incidents that take place outside school' more explicit and ensure that it is clearly communicated to all through the School Policy and the Acceptable Use Policy. Don't forget to

anonymously document incidents on the Incident handling form (www.esafetylabel.eu/group/teacher/incident-handling), as this enables schools to share and learn from each other's strategies.

Staff policy

- You have guidelines in your Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) on teachers' classroom usage of mobile phones.
 Upload your AUP to your school profile as it is a model of good practice that can help other eSafety Label schools.
- In order to decrease the risks of misues of user accounts, ensure that you put a procedure in place that immediately informs the ICT responsible to adjust user rights and/or deactivate them if the role of staff or pupil has changed.

Pupil practice/behaviour

- Your school has a school wide approach of positive and negative consequences for pupil behaviour. This is good practice, please share your policy via the <u>My school area</u> of the eSafety portal so that other schools can learn from it.
- You have defined electronic communication guidelines in your Acceptable Use Policy and this would be a useful example of good practice for other schools. Can you create a tutorial about electronic communication guidelines for pupils and upload it to your school profile via your <u>My school area</u> so that other schools can benefit from your experience.

School presence online

- Regularly check the content of the school's online presence on social media sites to ensure that there are no inappropriate comments. Set up a process for keeping the site/page up to date, and check the fact sheet on Schools on social networks (www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/schools-on-social-networks) for further information to make sure that good practice guidelines have been followed. Get feedback from stakeholders about how useful the profile is.
- > You have a dedicated person to monitor your school's online reputation, and this is good practice. Always be aware of any new sites that may not be immediately apparent through a regular search. Keep up to date with the latest sites and monitor these periodically, as they can be particularly damaging for schools and their pupils and staff if they present a negative viewpoint.

Practice

Management of eSafety

In addition to a clear designation of responsibility to ensure that all necessary network security and user privacy checks are in place, it is essential that schools also have audit and procedural checks at regular intervals.

Without this, a school will be leaving itself vulnerable. See our fact sheet on School Policy at www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/school-policy.

Although there should always be an overall lead person on eSafety just as you have in your school, everybody in the school has a shared responsibility to secure any sensitive information used in their day to day professional duties. Even staff not directly involved in data handling should be made aware of the risks and threats and how to

minimise problems. Use our fact sheet Acceptable Use Policy

(www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/acceptable-use-policy-aup-) to ensure that everyone plays their part in ensuring they are all the best and safest digital citizens they can be.

eSafety in the curriculum

- > Sexting is an issue which affects many young people. Sharing possible consequences and risks with them is important, as is the opportunity for some discussion around the issue. Sexting should be part of a broad and balanced eSafety curriculum
- > It is good practice that all pupils in all year groups in your school are taught about eSafety. It continues to be important to review regularly the curriculum provision to ensure it meets ever-changing needs. If you have a curriculum review process of this kind, it would be helpful to other schools if you could publish this on your school profile. To upload go to your My school area.
- > It is good practise that in your school Cyberbullying is discussed in the curriculum with pupils from a young age.
- You may want to consider including sexting in your child protection policy to help to ensure a consistent wholeschool approach to dealing with any incidents.

Extra curricular activities Sources of support

> It is great that in your school pupils are actively encouraged to become eSafety mentors. You might want to share your approach to strengthening this network with other teachers on the eSafety Label website via the forum or your school's profile page, so that others can replicate it.

Staff training

- It is good practise that you provide information to teachers on the technology used by pupils in their freetime.

 This is important as this awareness is the first step in addressing the issue of powering down for school. At the same time pupils should not be asked to do their homework using technology not available to them outside of schools. You might want to have a look at the Essie Survey of ICT in schools.
- All teachers should be able to recognise signs of cyberbullying and be aware on how to best proceed. Make sure that your teachers are regularly trained bearing in mind the rapid changes of new technology. Also check the eSafety fact sheet on Cyberbullying at www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/cyberbullying.
- All staff need to be regularly updated about emerging trends in eSafety issues. Consider a needs-analysis to determine what different staff need from their training and consult the eSafety Label portal to see suggestions for training courses at www.esafetylabel.eu/group/community/suggestions-for-online-training-courses.
- In your school knowledge exchange between staff members is encouraged. This is beneficiary to the whole school. Upload PowerPoints, documents or similar of knowledge exchanges on eSafety topics via the uploading evidence tool, accessible also via the My school area.

The Assessment Form you submitted is generated from a large pool of questions. It is also useful for us to know if you are improving eSafety in areas not mentioned in the questionnaire. You can

upload evidence of such changes via the <u>Upload evidence</u> on the <u>My school area</u> section of the eSafety Portal. Remember, the completion of the Assessment Form is just one part of the Accreditation Process, because the upload of evidence, your exchanges with others via the <u>Forum</u>, and your <u>reporting of incidents</u> on the template provided are all also taken into account.

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