

School: Reach Academy Date of assessment: 12th July 2018.

Assessor: Johnathon Martin Headteacher: Martin Ridge

School Contact: David Newton

Element A – Policy and Leadership

Westfields PRU have an excellent school leader driving Online Safety throughout their setting. This means that policies are well thought out, implemented and reviewed. All staff understand their roles and responsibilities when it comes to Online Safety. As a small setting, the staff take on many roles in their day to day tasks, allowing Online Safety to be regularly reviewed and discussed.

The Management Committee are very supportive, and equally critical of the schools' Online Safety policies and practices. This is evident in their pro-active questioning of senior leaders which implemented changes to the school filtering system. By having the Management Committee as part of the Online Safety group, the unit have established a collaborative environment to develop their Online Safety provision.

The relationships that the young people have with teachers and senior leaders mean that they feel safe and able to communicate any and all concerns with all staff members. This is a real strength.

Reporting procedures are uniform throughout the unit, and well displayed, with young people and staff able to clearly explain what would happen if an incident was to occur. SchoolPod certainly helps with the recording of incidents, and sharing data is done in a secure way via a secure service provided by the council.

Risk assessments are taken regarding new and emerging technologies, such as social media and wearable tech. Social media was tried in a way that would suit this particular unit, and analytics on this help to see how effective it is. The use of wearable technology has been discussed and written into policy.

Element B – Infrastructure

The school has a secure and well thought out infrastructure. Cabinets containing cables are locked and placed out of reach. Servers are safe, secure and locked away in a dedicated room.

A strict password policy is in place, with regular enforced changes. Encrypted memory pens are used to store sensitive data, and all staff are aware of the reasons why, and of GDPR. A DPO has been appointed, and are on the journey towards compliance.

Filtering is provided by an accredited provider, is differentiated by role, and also used sensibly, meaning staff who need to access sensitive material, for example relating to relationships, can do so without getting unnecessary blocks. The filtering sends instant alerts to key staff members to investigate.

Element C – Education

The young people have access to a fantastic education. Online Safety is a huge part of the curriculum, not just in computing, but across many subjects. The unit provides classroom based learning and sessions on a 1:1 basis. This really works, and the unit are lucky to be in a position to provide this wrap around education.

Young people are valued at Westfields, and their contributions to learning are clearly on display. They all work towards a nationally recognised certificate in Online Safety, something the children can transfer when they leave the unit.

Parents are tricky to engage, but the school tries very hard with all groups. 1:1 sessions when required are very useful for the parents who need help, and all members of the unit's community are asked if they need any help or guidance.

Element D – Standards and Inspection

As mentioned, Westfields use an effective MIS to record issues or concerns, with the right staff having access to these at the right times. All staff are well trained to spot signs of concern and know how to report these. Staff are involved in monitoring the policies and practices to ensure any new issues are written into policy. Online Safety is mentioned in the whole school development plan.

Areas of strength and good practice

One of the main areas of strength is the Online Safety Lead who is clearly passionate about Online Safety and Computing. He is a strong leader and contributes to the Online Safety Group with other PRU's very well. His organisation must be noted; evidence was provided via a 'microsite' to save on paper and time sorting. This made it very easy to see supporting evidence for every point.

Clearly all staff have fantastic relationships with young people in their care. These are small groups, with a very child centred approach. Issues are discussed as and when required, alongside a very well structured curriculum, which is broad, well managed and delivered in classroom settings and outside of the class on a 1-1 basis including outreach programs. It links well with other subjects, relationships are a big focus of this, and one that the young people really respond well to. The curriculum includes a range of older resources from CEOP and Childnet, but also includes newer, up to date and relevant learning.

Areas for further development

The unit should look to carry on their good practice as they move into an Academy, and use this as an opportunity to further collaborate with others in the MAT, and develop a way of spreading the online safety message into the community.

The school should also continue the work towards GDPR compliance.

Assessor's Recommendation

Westfields PRU has reached the standards required to be awarded the Online safety Mark.