Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Early Years Settings
Issue Number 1 January 2017

For Early Years Settings:
Welcome to the first Scomis newsletter specifically for Early Years. Our newsletters will provide up to date Online Safety information, remind you of your Online Safety responsibilities and prompt you through key questions to challenge the Online Safety practice in your establishment.

Remember – Online Safety is everybody's responsibility!

Do you know if:
- Your establishment has an up to date Online Safety Policy and does it provide clear guidance to staff and parents on the use of personal devices in the setting?
- Your establishment has a policy for 'acceptable use' which includes 'digital videos and images?
- Your establishment has a Social Media Policy which provides clear advice on communication with parents and carers?
- Children's use of the internet is physically monitored and supervised?
- Your establishment has a Data Management Policy?
- All staff have an understanding of how data protection laws operate?

Extracts from Ofsted's definition of Safeguarding (Inspecting Safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings 23/8/16):
Safeguarding is not just about protecting children, learners and vulnerable adults from deliberate harm, neglect and failure to act. It relates to broader aspects of care and education, including:
- Online safety and associated issues
- The term 'online safety' reflects a widening range of issues associated with technology and a user's access to content, contact with others and behavioural issues
- Providers must take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well
- Safeguard children
- Manage behaviour
- Maintain records, policies and procedures

Review one Local Authority's approach - Swindon Borough Council's *Key Principles for the safe use of ICT in Early Years* :
http://schoolsonline.swindon.gov.uk/sc/cp/Pages/online-safety.aspx

Unsure of how to begin a review of the Online Safety practice in your establishment?
You can access a **free**, powerful self-review tool from South West Grid for Learning. The *Online Compass* allows you to:
- Review online safety in **your** group or organisation.
- Improve **your** group's online safety using expert advice.
- Shows **you** what you need to do to make the use of technology safer for your group

http://swgfl.org.uk/products-services/esafety/services/Online-Compass
Purchase South West Grid for Learning's Early Years Toolkit (£16.50) – originally published by Plymouth City Council in 2010:
http://swgfl.org.uk/products-services/esafety/resources/Early-Years-Publication

Unsure of the Information Commissioner's Statutory requirements for your organisation to be compliant with Data Protection?
Use the free toolkit to assess your organisation's compliance with the Data Protection Act. Find out what **you** need to do:
https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/improve-your-practices/data-protection-self-assessment-toolkit/

Do you know?
- Children aged 3-4 are spending more than **8 hours a week online**

Read Ofcom's 2016 survey in full:
https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0034/93976/Children-Parents-Media-Use-Attitudes-Report-2016.pdf

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