

Schools

January 2009

# Safeguard learners online

How are you safeguarding  
next generation learners?

**Becta** leading  
next generation  
learning

**Safeguarding learners online is all about schools:**

- taking action on responsible, safe online use by putting the right whole-school policy in place
- educating everyone in your organisation, including all learners and staff, about how to protect themselves and others online
- monitoring regularly to make sure protection procedures – through technology and the way people use it – are effective.



# Safeguarding means protecting, educating and empowering

Safeguarding learners is not a technology issue. Schools and colleges have an overall duty of care which includes the safety of all children and those within the 14–19 sector.

Schools have a particular responsibility when providing, implementing and deploying technologies that enable learners to communicate, collaborate and connect with others over the internet or in shared electronic networks.

Being safe in the digital world is not just about having the right technology safeguards in place. Increasingly, it's about empowering learners to keep themselves safe, and urging staff to protect themselves and their learners by using only recognised school systems.

Giving learners the tools and knowledge to keep themselves safe in a digital world must be a whole-school responsibility.

Safeguard learners online:

[www.becta.org.uk/safeguardlearnersonline](http://www.becta.org.uk/safeguardlearnersonline)



# Becta's role in safeguarding learners online

## Support

Becta is a UK leader in responsible safe use of technology for online learners in schools. Although ultimate responsibility for safeguarding learners online lies with education providers, we are working to ensure that national guidelines support local needs.

## Collaboration

We collaborate with many agencies on responsible, safe online use and are a member of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS). We also encourage all education providers to involve a wide range of stakeholder groups in their planning for safeguarding learners online.

Becta's advice for safeguarding learners online describes best practice for schools when implementing, deploying and connecting learning technologies at school and at home.

## Standards

We ensure safety and security are addressed throughout our functional, technical and service quality specifications. Our specifications can help you to make the right ICT purchasing decisions for your school or college.

## Accreditation

Our internet services accreditation scheme enables internet service providers (ISPs), regional broadband consortia (RBCs) and local authorities to demonstrate how their offerings meet or exceed Becta's minimum requirements.



# Develop a whole-school policy to safeguard learners online

## **Protect, educate and empower within and outside school**

You need to create an appropriate model to protect learners online when they are in your care and educate them to protect themselves when they're not in your care.

Becta understands that your school needs to operate responsible, safe online procedures according to your own specific situation. We encourage all schools to work from a basis of protection towards a whole-school model of personal empowerment.

The purpose of safeguarding for schools must be to ensure that the young people in your care are aware of potential risks and how to practise safe, responsible behaviour, whenever and wherever they are online.

The whole-school protection model should promote the responsible use of technology, encompassing policy, infrastructure, education and standards. It's important to designate a senior management team member as a central contact point with responsibility for safeguarding.

You should take advantage of Becta's tools and knowledge to create and operate a simple whole-school model with a strong focus on data security that keeps online learners safe and secure and which encourages children and young people to be responsible users of new technologies. For the best results, use Becta's information management strategy framework and data handling security guidance.

Information management:

[www.becta.org.uk/schools/informationmanagement](http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/informationmanagement)

Data handling security guidance for schools:

[www.becta.org.uk/schools/datasecurity](http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/datasecurity)



## Create an acceptable use policy

We urge you to create an acceptable use policy (AUP), detailing the ways staff, pupils and all network users can and cannot use ICT facilities. You should look to your local authority for sample AUPs that relate to local circumstances.

Make sure you link the AUP to other school policies such as anti-bullying, and to guidance on copyright and plagiarism.

Supported by governors, headteachers should take the lead in embedding the agreed safeguarding policies.

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# Safeguard learners online – top tips

Include governors, classroom teachers and support staff in your thinking, not forgetting young people, parents or carers, local authority staff, internet service providers and regional broadband consortia.

Help learners to understand the importance of keeping their personal information safe and acting responsibly on the web or other shared networks.

Promote the meaning of the three Cs for learners: Content – differentiating between appropriate and inappropriate content when viewing and uploading; Contact – understanding appropriate and inappropriate contacts; Conduct – acting responsibly and sensitively with regard to others, keeping your own information and that of others secure.

Ensure that learners understand that other people's security can also be put at risk unless they safeguard data and interact responsibly with others online and within shared systems.

Help young people understand that while they are not accountable for the actions that other people may force on them, they will be subject to school sanctions if they act inappropriately online of their own accord.

Consult the General Teaching Council for England (GTC) professional standards of conduct for all practitioners, to ensure the safety of staff as well as children.

Ensure you regularly monitor and review with stakeholders your safeguarding policies, and that you regularly review and update technological solutions.

Look for Becta accreditation when selecting an internet service provider or buying web and email filtering products.

Support young people to develop their own protection strategies for when adult supervision and technological protection are not available.

Provide learners with information on where to seek help and how to report incidents, and give parents, carers and others guidelines on safe practice.

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NEXT  
GENERATION  
LEARNING

Experience the  
**future of  
learning  
today**



[nextgenerationlearning.org.uk](http://nextgenerationlearning.org.uk)



# What is Next Generation Learning?

**We know that technology offers enormous opportunities for education. In fact, research shows that learners with access to technology for learning have a far greater chance of achieving their potential.**

The Next Generation Learning campaign is aimed at parents or carers, employers and learners. It is intended to raise their awareness of the benefits of the use of technology in education and to drive greater demand for it.

The campaign currently focuses on:

- greater engagement by parents or carers – with schools and at home
- effective use of technology in schools and colleges
- ensuring children are safe online.





Becta is also talking to schools to ensure that they are aware of how to use technology to its full potential to meet these demands.

See what we are saying to parents

**[www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk](http://www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk)**

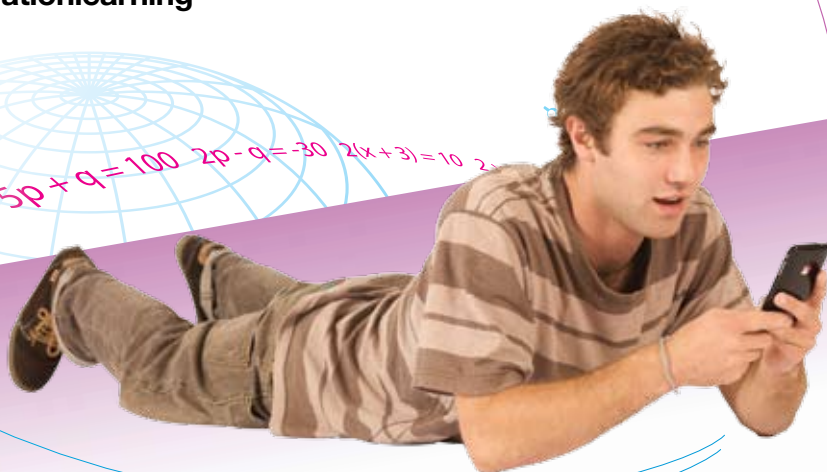
Find out how you can become Next Generation Learning ready

**[www.becta.org.uk/nextgenerationlearning](http://www.becta.org.uk/nextgenerationlearning)**

$2a + b = 21$   $a + b = 15$   $5p + q = 100$   $2p - q = -30$   $2(x + 3) = 10$   $2x + 3 = 10$   $2x + 3 = 10$

Guten tag Buenos dias Buongiorno Bonjour

Rowling Beatrix Potter Enid Blyton  
Gullman Dahl  
Wilson



$2a + b = 21$   $a + b = 15$   $5p + q = 100$   $2p - q = -30$   $2(x + 3) = 10$   $2x + 3 = 10$

# Be prepared for more demand for Next Generation Learning

Improve your school  
develop and follow a strategy that  
uses technology to achieve better  
outcomes for learners  
[www.becta.org.uk/  
improveyourschool](http://www.becta.org.uk/improveyourschool)

Plan sustainable success  
balance the economic, social and  
environmental aspects of technology  
for learning  
[www.becta.org.uk/  
plansustainablesuccess](http://www.becta.org.uk/plansustainablesuccess)

Achieve best value  
secure quality, fit-for-purpose  
technology, with the right support,  
at the right price  
[www.becta.org.uk/  
achievebestvalue](http://www.becta.org.uk/achievebestvalue)

Safeguard learners online  
protect, educate and empower everyone  
to keep safe and secure online  
[www.becta.org.uk/  
safeguardlearnersonline](http://www.becta.org.uk/safeguardlearnersonline)

Inspire parental engagement  
enable parents to access and use  
technology for a positive impact on  
their children's learning  
[www.becta.org.uk/  
inspireparentalengagement](http://www.becta.org.uk/inspireparentalengagement)

Make learning personal  
support learners to make effective,  
discriminating use of technology that  
meets their needs  
[www.becta.org.uk/  
makelearningpersonal](http://www.becta.org.uk/makelearningpersonal)

**Becta** leading  
next generation  
learning

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