

States Greffe

Deputy Robert Ward
Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning

BY EMAIL

24th February 2025

Dear Minister,

Scrutiny Review: What protection do children in Jersey have from online harms?

Further to our letter of 6th February 2025, you will be aware that the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel is currently collecting evidence and information in relation to this review. The Panel has reviewed the Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) policies, particularly, 'Keeping children safe in education' and the 'Online Safety Policy' and, as part of the evidence gathering process, the Panel would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions and requests for information.

Training

1. Please can you describe and provide examples of how children are taught about safeguarding relating to online safety, in schools?
2. Please can you describe and provide examples of how parents / carers are informed and provided with advice by schools about children's access to online sites and online safety?
3. Please can you tell us about the online safety training that is provided to CYPES staff in schools?
4. How much money, if any, is spent by Government of Jersey schools on specific online safety training?
[Where possible, please provide a detailed breakdown by staff / students / other and, also differentiate spend by primary / secondary school stage.]
5. How do schools approach education about specific online harms or risks, for example, cyberbullying, inappropriate content, addictive behaviours, etc?

Monitoring

6. How do schools fulfil their responsibilities (as per the 'Online Safety Policy') to "oversee and monitor the use of technology when children are in their care"?

(a) How is this managed consistently when the children / young people may have access to mobile phones / smart phones with internet access?
7. Please can you tell us about the use of Impero and other software used for the purposes of safeguarding and monitoring online access through the school IT networks?

- (a) How many Government of Jersey provided schools use Impero?
 - (b) How many Government of Jersey provided schools use another / additional software programmes? (please provide further details, for example, the software name / extent in use etc).
 - (c) How many of the Government of Jersey provided schools do not have an internal monitoring system (such as Impero) to check all online activity?
8. Where schools have access to internal monitoring software, please could you confirm if there is specific funding provided for it from CYPES, or if the funding has to be identified and prioritised by headteachers?
 9. In your opinion, should internal school technical monitoring be a legal requirement, as it is in the United Kingdom?
 10. How much money is spent by the Government of Jersey provided schools on software used for online safety purposes? Is this from the CYPES budget or the Digital Services budget?
[If possible, please can you break down any answer into spend from primary schools / spend by secondary schools].
 11. The 'Online Safety Policy' states that some digital apps are able to circumvent the central monitoring and filtering systems. Please could you provide examples of where this has occurred and how frequently it is picked up by school monitoring?
 12. The CYPES policies highlight the importance of maintaining accurate records of online safety incidents. Please can you provide the Panel with data to confirm how many online safety incidents have been recorded across schools in the previous five years?
[If possible, please can you break down any answer to identify the types of incidents that are recorded].

Mobile devices

13. Is student access to harmful online content through a mobile phone (or other device) on school grounds considered as a risk by CYPES? If yes, please provide some further details about how this risk has been considered.
 - (a) Is assessment of this risk undertaken centrally by CYPES, or at a school level?
 - (b) If applicable, please can you describe how schools manage the risks associated with access to unfiltered and unmonitored content on mobile devices whilst on school grounds?
14. What policy options are there to reduce risk for students from accessing harmful content on mobile devices, whilst at school, in future?
15. Please can you provide the Panel with a copy of every school's mobile phone / device policy?

We'd be grateful for a written response to be sent by **5 pm on Monday 3rd March 2025**. If you require a longer period of time to respond please liaise with the Panel's Committee and Panel Officer, Katherine de Carteret by email at k.decarteret@gov.je or telephone on 01534 441041.



Yours sincerely,

Deputy Catherine Curtis
Chair, Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel