

Securus supports latest Becta e-safety guidance



Technology in education develops at a rapid pace, creating fresh opportunities for teaching and learning. Unfortunately, it also gives rise to additional dangers. By working in close partnership with all stakeholders, Securus assists local authorities and schools in reducing these threats.

Although the risks associated with technology can never be fully eliminated, Securus provides a highly effective solution that underpins Becta's four key e-safety measures.

Becta's key measures for limiting e-safety risks



Safeguarding children in a digital world
(<http://publications.becta.org.uk>)

Policies and practices

At a minimum, Becta wants every school to use an Acceptable Use Policy to protect both pupils and staff.

Ideally, this should be developed along with other school policies, like those to combat bullying.

Because Securus monitors all online and offline computer use, it is a highly effective way to enforce your school's AUP, identify breaches and respond to any issues appropriately.

Your AUP can be displayed at the point of login, according to user group. If a pupil declines the terms and conditions, access to the system is denied.

By identifying pastoral concerns, such as cyberbullying, cries for help or self harm, Securus supports wider child protection measures and legislation.

Infrastructure and technology

The most common ICT breach in schools comes from students accessing unsuitable material online.

Basic web filtering of emails and websites is insufficient as these measures are easily bypassed by pupils wanting to reach blocked websites.

As a monitoring solution, Securus identifies the gaps in your security and pinpoints the pupils trying to outwit the system.

Teachers can restrict access for individual pupils to certain times and provide targeted support to manage and change behaviour.

Securus also identifies offline abuse in applications like Word™ or material uploaded from USB sticks that would normally go unrecorded by a blocking or filtering system.

Education and training

If pupils are to be as safe at home as they are at school, they need to recognise the risks for themselves.

Becta wants pupils to be taught about e-safety, which will help them to judge whether their actions are safe, especially online.

By capturing screenshot evidence of e-safety incidents, Securus helps teachers to reinforce positive messages about e-safety with individual pupils or as part of a lesson.

Teachers are also given the information they need to handle e-safety issues with confidence and discretion. Concerns can be dealt with away from the classroom and this helps staff to offer the right level of support.

Inspection and standards

Finally, Becta highlights the importance of maintaining your e-safety measures as part of an ongoing process of inspections and reviews.

The evidence provided by Securus can form part of a Becta Self Review Framework or Ofsted inspection. Regular reporting on e-safety incidents also shows how effective your procedures are at minimising risks and handling issues. This highlights where further improvements could be made to your policies, practices and training.

