Module 3: Lead online safety in your community

If you're in a leadership position, it's a good idea to review 'Module 1 - Protect children from online harm' and 'Module 2 - Support families to keep children safe online' before you start this module.

3.1 Lead a holistic, prevention-based approach to reducing harms in your community

Reflecting on current practices	How often do you do this?	Make it a focus?	Ideas for improving practices	Resources and support
Does your leadership team understand current and emerging online risks and safeguarding strategies?	Always ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never ☐	☐	Online and offline opportunities and harms can be linked. Children and young people are safer when leadership teams stay up to date with emerging online safety risks and safeguarding strategies. • Ensure your leadership team keeps up to date with online safety issues and best practice. • Talk with your community about their online experiences and needs. • Understand the prevention of online abuse is everyone's responsibility, recognising harms are not the fault of a child or young person – including experiences of online child sexual exploitation and abuse.	Online risks for children in your community Learn about key online safety topics and explore research Explore blogposts on the latest online trends and approaches to safeguarding. Subscribe to child and family sector professionals news eSafety training for professionals

| **Is your leadership team committed to leading a holistic, prevention-based approach to reducing harms in your community?** | Always ☐

Often ☐

Sometimes ☐

Never ☐ | ☐ | Children and young people are safer when organisations build online safety into existing ways of working.
• Embed online safety considerations into business-as-usual, including policies, training, programs and service delivery.
• Reduce stigma about experiencing online harms by starting open conversations about online safety, including difficult topics like online child sexual abuse.
• Increase the visibility of online harm prevention programs, for example online safety parenting resources.
• Embed online safety prevention into monitoring and evaluation of programs and service delivery.
• Build robust processes that help increase access to support and decrease barriers to reporting. | Online risks to children in your community

How you can protect children from online harm

Read the Youth Aspirational Statement

Make your commitment to online safety visible using our commitment poster and badge

Providing tailored support in diverse contexts including for LGBTIQ+ communities, Children experiencing tech-facilitated abuse, First Nations families, Sport and out-of-home care.

Show your organisation's commitment to online safety by celebrating Safer Internet Day |

Is the organisation's leadership team applying the National Principles to online activities and environments?	Always ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never ☐	☐	Children and young people are safer when organisations read and adopt relevant standards from the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. • Use the Australian Government's practical tools and resources to help implement the principles in your organisation, including consulting the checklist for online safety. • Implement local or state-based Child Safe Standards requirements.	Child Safe Organisations – Checklist for online safety

3.2 Support your community to understand and manage online risks

Reflecting on current practices	How often do you do this?	Make it a focus?	Ideas for improving practices	Resources and support
Does the leadership team ensure your organisation has policies and procedures in place to safeguard against, and manage, online safety incidents – and they are regularly reviewed and updated?	Always ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never ☐	☐	Communities are safer when online safeguarding is embedded across all settings and activities. • Set out the organisation's expectations and make clear what behaviour is/is not acceptable when engaging with the community online or when using digital technologies. • Create policies and procedures to safeguard against, manage and keep a record of online safety incidents. • Allocate one or more staff members who can support children, young people and parents or carers to report online safety issues.	[Toolkit for Schools: Respond](#)
Does the leadership team ensure your organisation manages IT infrastructure to minimises the risk of online harm?	Always ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never ☐	☐	Children and young people are safer when appropriate technologies are used to monitor and filter harmful content. This filtering technology and infrastructure may be managed by IT specialists. Consider active monitoring of your organisation's use of technology including moderation of social media feeds and comments section. • Set up infrastructure to allow access to child-friendly content and experiences only and avoid exposure to [illegal and harmful content](#). • Document policies for device use that cover strategies to safeguard children, including age-appropriate supervision, use of safety and privacy settings, and tech options such as filters. • Regularly audit devices and check that harmful content has not been accessed.	[Toolkit for Schools: Prepare](#)

			• If your staff or volunteers need to use their personal devices, provide IT support to help them use safeguarding settings technologies too.	
Does the leadership team ensure that staff and volunteers provide information to children, young people and parents or carers about how their personal information (such as names, photos, work samples or other identifying information) will be used online?	Always ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never ☐	☐	Children and young people are safer when organisations and adults always seek consent from them and their parents or carers prior to publishing their information online. • Issue an annual blanket consent form for regular communications such as newsletters, with additional consent sought for one-off events or additional communications. • Provide information on the possible use of photos or videos to enable children, young people and parents or carers to have a clear understanding of what they are consenting to, and who has access to the images or information, as well as for how long and where it will be stored. • Communicate with parents or carers when online accounts are created for children and young people (such as resource subscriptions and apps). • Share the strategies being used to keep children's and young people's identities safe. • Where possible, don't use names when publishing information about children, young people and their parents or carers. • Consider circumstances that could place a child or young person at risk of harm if their photo, video or information is shared, for example, where there are legal proceedings or a court order relating to child protection, custody, domestic violence or family separation is in place. • Ensure that consent is sought regularly and through the child's or young person's preferred communication.	Learn about identity theft Help young people protect personally identifiable information

Does the leadership team ensure your organisation has clear policies and procedures about how photos and videos of children and young people will be managed and stored?	Always ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never ☐	☐	Children and young people are safer when organisations avoid storing photos or videos of them, unless necessary. Where storing them is necessary: • Store photos and videos of children and young people securely with limited or passphrase protected access. • Make it clear who can access the photos or videos and for how long they will be stored. • Delete information, photos and videos of children and young people as soon as possible.	[Toolkit for Schools: Prepare](#)
Does your leadership team ensure promotion of online safety is a priority?	Always ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never ☐	☐	Children, young people and parents or carers are safer when they are empowered to approach online opportunities and risks confidently and knowledgeably. • Support parents or carers, organisations and communities to take effective and appropriate actions to prevent children and young people from being exposed to online harms. • Provide a variety of opportunities (posters, webinars, social media) for children, young people and parents or carers to learn about and get support for online safety concerns. • Ensure that approaches consider the evolving online safety issues, risks and harms facing the community. • Consider creating a Community of Practice to understand and explore good practice in preventing online harms in your community context.	[How you can protect children from online harm](#) – including the 'Working together – stakeholder toolkit' Show your organisation's commitment to online safety by celebrating [Safer Internet Day](#)

3.3 Provide online safety information and training to staff and volunteers

Reflecting on current practices	How often do you do this?	Make it a focus?	Ideas for improving practices	Resources and support
Does the leadership team undergo online safety training and provide regular opportunities for staff and volunteers to learn about online risks and effective prevention practices?	Always ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never ☐	☐	Staff and volunteers should be empowered to assist children, young people and parents or carers with online safety issues and embed effective prevention practices into their work. • Provide regular opportunities for training and development of staff. • Include opportunities to debrief about online safety prevention efforts and responses to critical incidents at staff meetings and in organisation-based training.	eSafety training for professionals
Has your leadership team identified key staff members to advocate for and have a special interest in online safety?	Always ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never ☐	☐	Many organisations find it helpful to have a key staff member with responsibility for online safety. An online safety advocate in your organisation can help by: • keeping up to date about online safety trends and risks • establishing an online safety team that has responsibility and advocates for effective practices to prevent online harms and increase wellbeing • promoting positive online safety expectations • answering questions about online safety and knowing where to get more support • being a central contact to manage critical incidents.	Subscribe to child and family sector professionals news