Make Virtual School Safer

**Principles of e-learning child protection:**

- Follow school child protection policy and professional code of conduct.
- Contact should be observable and interruptible.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries - avoid conduct that a reasonable person might question.
- Avoid being alone or causing someone else to be alone with a child (such as being late for online supervision or not recording synchronous session if required to do so).
- Report child protection concerns to your safeguarding designate.
- Ensure your personal social media is private and inaccessible to students.
- Seek educational solutions to educational problems. Assess risk if you’re not sure!

**Communication e-Learning**

**Communication:**

All communications should have an educational purpose.

**Observable:**

Virtual synchronous sessions may be recorded or should be conducted in a place that is observable and interruptible.

**Communications follow school policy which should state that another adult be included. That may be a parent or colleague.**

Communication with multiple students is preferred.

**Guidelines to be observed during any digital or online contact with students.**

*Permission should be granted by participants according to local law.

Situation to AVOID online:

- Casual or intimate atmosphere: Intimate locations, casual dress, nicknames, private conversations, observational comments about homes or family, oversharing personal details. A professional tone is critical to maintain boundaries online.
- Changing platforms: Avoid the temptation to change platforms if communication is disrupted by technical difficulties. Reschedule the session instead.
- Unclear expectations: Ensure synchronous learning events are predictable, structured, and distraction free.
- Code of conduct violations: Meeting children on other platforms, taking photos or screen shots of students, out of program contact. Favoritism, derogatory or sexist remarks, electronic harassment, influence or addiction of drugs are grounds for disciplinary action or dismissal.

**Situations to AVOID online:**

Get more information on child protection at EdPortal.ICMEC.org