



Deputy Barry Ward
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

October 17th 2025

Parliamentary Question 52710/25

To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding funding to support online safety programmes for schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Barry Ward

Dear Deputy Ward

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In general, funding to support programmes for schools is the responsibility for the Minister for Education and Youth. Separately, and as part of its remit public health remit, the HSE provides funding to a number of organisations which offer online support services. While the focus of these services is on mental health, the issues of online safety and social media use are addressed from a mental health promotion perspective.

Specifically, and across the layers of a digital mental health model of support, the following services are among those provided:

- Yourmentalhealth.ie, incorporating My Mental Health Plan
- Text About It crisis support
- Spunout youth health information
- Togetherall (clinically moderated online peer support)
- Cybersafe Kids

HSE digital mental health budget also funds key partner organisations delivering awareness, education, support and research projects in the digital mental health space. These partners include Foróige, ISPCC and GROW.

Of direct relevance to the question at hand, the HSE currently provides €300,000 in funding to CyberSafeKids with the objective of scaling up population-wide awareness and education for children



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and for parents, teachers and other adults who may be interested in online safety information. Three national campaigns are currently delivering on this objective:

- 'Same Rules Apply' awareness campaign aimed at parents with over 1 million views of the campaign video and over 12,000 direct beneficiaries who accessed the support resources including a digital parenting guide and a parent webinar
- CyberBreak: a 24-hour break from devices aimed at families and focused on fostering healthy habits and balance within the household
- Christmas Campaign (Gadget Gift Guide): There will be over 7,000 direct beneficiaries. We calculate a direct beneficiary as any parent or caregiver who accesses our 'Christmas Gadget Gift Guide' or attends a one-hour expert webinar.

CyberSafeKids also offer a range of classroom and workplace sessions for children and adults to help them navigate the digital world safely.

Through the continued implementation of *Sharing the Vision, A Mental Health Policy for Everyone* the HSE will

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Chambers
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Access and Integration