

SSITA

Safe Schools Information Technology Alliance

March 2013

SSITA is a rapidly growing alliance of organisations and experts working together for a safe learning and teaching environment.

Dear Headteacher,

Are you or your Governing Body legally accountable for harmful effects from Wi-Fi in your school? The World Health Organization and International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified it as a class 2B possible human carcinogen.

Education employers have duties to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable:

- the health, safety and welfare of teachers and other education staff;
- the health and safety of pupils in-school and on off-site visits; and
- the health and safety of visitors to schools and volunteers involved in any school activity.

Has YOUR school done a risk assessment of the cumulative level of microwave radiation being imposed on staff and pupils for the majority of the school day e.g by wi-fi routers in classrooms, offices etc. and hundreds of smart phones (even if they are switched to silent)?

Regarding risk assessment, you may find this excellent Australian video on Wifi in schools helpful: <http://www.youtube.com/watch>

The report 'Safe Schools 2012' is a call for safe environments in schools from medical associations, doctors and leading scientists.

<http://wifiinschools.org.uk/resources/safeschools2012.pdf>

Adverse biological and health effects of wireless technologies have been repeatedly documented in the scientific literature.

Concerns are growing within medical and scientific communities about the safety of wireless environments. **The Bioinitiative Report 2012** is a scientific update of the major areas where damaging biological effects have been found. <http://www.bioinitiative.org/>

It can take time for emerging risks to be universally accepted, especially when there are economic and industrial pressures involved. Health risks from tobacco, asbestos and lead in petrol are previous examples. However, it is possible to reduce the potential damage to the school population by taking a precautionary approach once health risks have been demonstrated. Many doctors and scientists are calling for a precautionary approach to be taken now for Wi-Fi and mobile phones in schools.

SSITA recommends that schools use wired internet connections, to help ensure the present and future health of children and staff. Other countries, like France, Germany and Russia, as well as the Council of Europe, have issued warnings about the dangers of microwave, radiofrequency exposure in schools.

<http://www.ssita.org.uk/>

Thank you.

SSITA

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