

# Safeguarding In Schools

with Specialist Safeguarding Consultant, **Andrew Hall**



## Safeguarding Briefing - 14th October 2024

### Media Literacy Strategy - OFCOM

A by product of the miniaturisation of technology has been the ubiquity of media in our lives. Portable headphones, smart-phones, touchpads and other technological marvels have create a world, where the individual is permanently 'plugged in' to media. Whether that media is online games such as the ever popular 'Roblox' or the ever present 'YouTube'. Both forms of drawing individuals into an omnipresent e-sphere, which continually shapes the minds of children and adults alike. The constant stream of information from these media sources, can make it hard to discern the truth or the proper way to do something. In the context of the internet and security whilst being online, this has created a confusing situation exacerbated by a lack of education. A major mile stone has been reached on clearing up the e-sphere, in this regard. Earlier this month OFCOM, the UK communications regulator, published their 'Best Practice Principles by Design' pledge. The Lego Group, Google Search, Pintrest and Roblox are among those who have signed up to this strategy. The juvenile appeal of these firms, with the exception of Google Search, make the pledge an important development in children's safety online. If you wish to find out more please click on the links below:

Announcement: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/ofcom-releases-three-year-media-literacy-strategy/>

Policy Documents: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/media-use-and-attitudes/media-literacy/principles-for-media-literacy-by-design/>

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### Online Tutors Safe Practice Guidance - London Grid for Learning

The concept of an extra-curricular tutor is not a new one. Families have often sought to complement school hours with specialist tutelage to give their children an edge. Up until a decade or so ago, this activity took place

within the home. The image of the tutor hunched over a kitchen table going through maths problems with a child, was not far from the truth. The internet despite its issues has connected the world, and has allowed tutoring to move into the online world. Language tutors can now be acquired from the countries in which those languages are spoken, for example. PhD candidates can now be contacted for e-learning, and in general the world of personal tutelage has been accelerated in ease of access and quality. The COVID era, contributed to the formation of a more sophisticated tutoring industry. Now there are specialised companies, open forums and sites laid out essentially in the same style of antiquated dating sites. E-Learning across this tumultuous period became normalised, and now the image of the webcam tutor operating via direct link to a child's bedroom is predominant. But there lies an issue, since it opens a vulnerability window where one did not previously exist. The London Grid for Learning (LGfL) has published guidance, to help treat this issue. If interested please follow the link below:

<https://viewonline.lgfl.net/hubfs/SafeguardED/Posters/LGfL-SafeguardED-safe-online-tutoring.pdf>

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## Question of the Week

What is meant by 'cuckooing' and who could be at risk?

Cuckooing involves a criminal taking over the home of a vulnerable person, in order to establish a base for illegal activity. This might be sex work, drug dealing or gun dealing. Often cuckooing is part of larger operation, such as a county-lines organisation. It can include the storage of illegal items such as hard drives with prohibited data, firearms, knives and narcotics. Frequently this involves the financial, physical, mental and emotional abuse of the vulnerable resident.

Who might be at risk of cuckooing?

- People with previous experience of abuse.
- People who are isolated or experience social difficulties.
- People with a physical or learning disability or mental ill health.
- People who have previously been in care.
- People who are battling addiction.
- People with connections with others who are involved in gangs.

What are some of the signs of Cuckooing at a property?

You might notice:

- An increase in people visiting and leaving and an increase in vehicles outside.
- Visitors coming and going at unusual times.
- You haven't seen the person who lives there in a while or when you do see them, they appear anxious or distracted.
- The person has a sudden unexplained increase in money, clothes or mobile phones.
- The person has relationships with controlling people or groups.
- The person has unexplained injuries and worrying changes in their emotional health.
- A sudden lack of healthcare visitors.

If you have come into contact with someone who you suspect may be a victim of modern slavery and in need of help, phone the Salvation Army's free 24/7 confidential referral helpline: 0800 808 3733.

Source: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery/cuckooing>

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## **Supporting Children with a Parent in Prison - Children Heard and Seen**

Last week the briefing looked at data regarding children with parents in prison. Those who read that article, will remember the negative impacts spoken about in regards to this matter. Children Heard and Seen is a charity aimed at ameliorating the issues caused by parental incarceration. Founded in 2014, by social worker Sarah Burrows. The recipient of multiple awards for her work towards aiding children of imprisoned parents, including the Point of Light Award (2017), the Butler Trust Commendation (2019) and the Leading Innovation and Social Change Award (2022) among other accolades. The charity aims to fill an existing gap in the provision of support for children and young people in these circumstances. They currently offer one-on-one support from trained practitioners, assistance for parents and carers, peer support groups and more. If you are in need of their support, or find this challenging sector interesting then please follow the link below:

<https://childrenheardandseen.co.uk/>

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## **BounceTogether Webinar - With CPOMS**

BounceTogether is a leading manufacturer of wellbeing measurement software for schools. They have recently formed a strategic partnership with CPOMS. There is now an integration feature linking both systems. The

integration software marks a significant advancement in school management of safeguarding and wellbeing. Schools can now synchronise wellbeing alert data, with their safeguarding data via automation. This provides a more comprehensive view of a particular student, in the context of their wellbeing. Integration of safeguarding and wellbeing data, adds a student voice to their chronologies, provides greater evidence for referral or funding needs and enables pro-active safeguarding. On October 24th at 16:30 BounceTogether will be hosting a free webinar, demonstrating the results of this synchronisation and what it could mean for your school. If interested please follow the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqceyh pzsoGtzQc7X3uSNQBx1U-qg9EOZM#/registration>

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### **Have you ordered your copy of the Safeguarding Handbook yet?**

You can order the latest copy of the Safeguarding Handbook by going to: <https://checkout.safeguardingschools.co.uk/sh2024>

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### **Online First Aid Software for Primary Schools - Medical Tracker**

Medical Tracker is an evolving tool for streamlining bureaucracy within the 21st century school. Its core functions work to automate the recording of first aid implementation, absences via sickness, the execution of mental healthcare provisions and the facilitation of regulatory compliance.

Through Medical Tracker's signature software package, hours of administrative time can be better distributed. Its fusion into a school's administrative framework, allows serious incident witness statements, accident investigations, individual healthcare and medication applications to be carried out more efficiently. CEOs and headmasters charged with leading multiple sites, will also find Medical Tracker useful. Its programmes work to provide faster, more flexible decision making across educational networks. If interested in changing the shape of your school's administration, please follow the link below:

<https://www.medicaltracker.co.uk/primary-schools>

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### **Advanced Safeguarding for DSLs**

*"I just wanted to say that I thought today's training was absolutely fantastic. By a mile it was the most engaging training I have done."*

## Next live online course - 17th October 2024

Thursday 17th October 2024 [Book here](#)

The on-demand course is always available and is updated after each live session [Book Online](#)

### Other available online courses include:

- Whole School Safeguarding Course for September 2024 (2 hours of content plus a break)

## Online courses - Safeguarding.Pro

All our other courses are now available in [Safeguarding.Pro](#) These courses can be accessed for a full year.

Current courses include:

- Safeguarding Refresher
- An Introduction to Cybersecurity
- Safeguarding for Governance
- Safeguarding Induction for new staff

For further details, go to: <https://safeguarding.pro/>

Until next time, keep safe,

Andrew Hall

Specialist Safeguarding Consultant,  
Director, Success In Schools Ltd.

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**Are you a busy DSL with no time?**

Need a place to ask questions. find support and download resources

**Click here and join Safeguarding.Pro today!**