

Safeguarding In Schools

*with Specialist Safeguarding Consultant, **Andrew Hall***



Safeguarding Briefing - 16th June 2025

Artificial Intelligence: Training and Support Resources (DfE)

The Department for Education has published a suite of guidance and practical tools to help schools implement AI safely and responsibly. The webpages are a bit spread out, so I've listed them all in one place here:

<https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/dfeai>

The DfE says that 'schools and colleges can set their own rules on AI use, as long as they follow legal requirements around data protection, child safety, and intellectual property.' In some ways that seems fair enough, but personally I think the sector actually needs much more direction.

For example, the blog post says that it is up to schools whether pupils are allowed to use AI, but also reminds teachers that they must '[make] sure students stick to age restrictions—many AI tools are 18+'. So, mostly that's a no then?

Free certified AI assessment (Chartered College of Teachers)

The Chartered College of Teaching is offering a free certified assessment for school staff to evidence their understanding of artificial intelligence in education. To complete it, teachers and leaders first watch the DfE's guidance and training materials which cover safe, ethical and effective AI use in schools. They then complete an assessment to demonstrate their learning. This is a valuable CPD opportunity for staff developing informed, responsible approaches to AI in education.

Find more information here: <https://chartered.college/safe-and-effective-use-of-ai-in-education/>

(Free Webinar) Actionable Intelligence: AI in European Schools (Dan Fitzpatrick)

One of my favourite UK teachers in the AI world is Dan Fitzpatrick. Last week he and several other speakers, Matthew Wemyss, Philippa Wraithmell and Al Kingsley MBE, took part in an online conference.

The 3-hour online conference aimed to demystify AI in education and show schools in the EU exactly what to do next. Dan says, 'Whether you're clueless, curious, or already knee-deep in AI, you'll walk away with strategies to lead your school with clarity, confidence, and compliance.'

It was a terrific watch, that I'm still listening to! The conference was free and has been uploaded onto YouTube

here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ssuysr-2oc&t=781s>

If you're interested in AI then it's well-worth joining Dan Fitzpatrick's The Sunday AI Educator email list by going to: <https://www.theaieducator.io/>

Whole School Online Safeguarding Course

For the last few years, I've created an online video course designed to be viewed by large groups of staff. Most schools have used it as their September whole school training session.

I'm just starting to create this year's edition and I would be interested in what you thought it should include.

You can contribute to the possible topic list here:

<https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/suggestions-for-whole-school-online-course-for-september-2025>

WATCH AN EXTRACT FROM LAST YEAR'S ONLINE COURSE

If you'd like to book the online Whole School Safeguarding Course you can pre-order here: <https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/wssc2025>

Free Webinar: Strengthening Multi-Agency Safeguarding Work - Student Voice

A free webinar on *Working Together to Safeguard Children in Action* will be held on **Wednesday 25th June 2025** at 3.30pm. Led by Jason Tait (an experienced DSL) and Sam Godfrey, Director of Safeguarding and Attendance at Stowe Valley MAT, this session offers practical tools, case studies, and reflective practice to help schools and safeguarding professionals reduce risk and strengthen collaboration with families and

local authorities. This is particularly valuable for those working to protect young people from harm outside the home or school.

For further information go to:

<https://www.thestudentvoice.co.uk/webinar-working-together-to-safeguard-children-in-action-with-sam-godfrey/>

Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2025 Update

At the time of writing, there is no confirmed update on the next edition of *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE). Several factors are probably contributing to the delay. These include the previous government's Call for evidence in April 2024, the potential mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse, the growing influence of AI on safeguarding practice, and the ongoing progress of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill through Parliament.

The previous government had suggested that the 2025 edition of KCSIE would be a significant update. However, last summer's election result may have re-aligned those plans.

I've emailed the DfE, but no response has been received so far.

Question of the Week

"Have you seen any examples of AI-generated content (e.g. fake messages or images) being used to target pupils? If so, how did we respond — and what should we be doing next?"

Answer

When AI-generated content is used to target pupils, schools should:

- **Treat it seriously** – follow behaviour and safeguarding procedures.
- **Report and record** – log concerns clearly, and track incidents to spot patterns or growing trends.
- **Support the pupil** – prioritise wellbeing and involve parents if appropriate.
- **Investigate intent** – whether harm was intended or not, address the impact.
- **Respond proportionately** – using sanctions, education, or restorative work.

- **Review policies** – ensure AI-related risks are included in all relevant guidance, for example, bullying, behaviour, and online safety policies.
 - **Educate pupils** – build awareness of deepfakes, fake content, and responsible digital behaviour.
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Safeguarding Report - TES

The 2025 Tes Safeguarding Report, based on insights from nearly 2,000 UK school staff and governors, highlights significant challenges in protecting students amid evolving digital risks and growing system pressures. Schools now account for almost 20% of referrals to children's social care, emphasising their central role in child protection as external services struggle to meet demand.

A key concern is the rise in digital threats. The Internet Watch Foundation recorded a 380% increase in AI-generated child abuse imagery within a year, bringing new challenges such as deepfakes and online exploitation. Despite the introduction of the Online Safety Act 2023, schools remain unclear about their specific responsibilities, as legislation and guidance continue to develop.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are under heavy pressure, tasked with managing complex multi-agency relationships, responding to fast-moving digital risks, and fulfilling safeguarding responsibilities alongside wider duties. The report calls for greater structural support, especially around collaboration and information sharing.

There is also mounting concern about student mental health, which is being further impacted by online environments. Many schools feel unprepared to respond, pointing to the urgent need for clear strategies, targeted resources, and better staff training to meet these growing challenges.

Key findings:

- **Monitoring Online Behaviour Outside School** - 92% of school staff identified monitoring students' online activities outside school as their most significant safeguarding challenge, an increase from 88% in 2024.
- **Inadequate Safeguarding Training** - Over one-third of school staff rated their safeguarding training as inadequate. Additionally,

only 48% reported receiving specific training on managing online safeguarding incidents.

- **Rise in AI-Generated Child Abuse Imagery** - The Internet Watch Foundation reported a 380% increase in AI-generated child abuse imagery within a year, highlighting the escalating digital threats schools must address.
- **Mental Health Concerns** - 73% of secondary school staff observed that mental health issues are significantly impacting students, indicating a pressing need for enhanced mental health support within schools.
- **Barriers to Effective Safeguarding** - The most commonly reported obstacles to effective safeguarding included difficulties accessing external services, resistance or disengagement from parents, overburdened Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), high staff turnover, and inadequate funding.

These findings underscore the evolving complexities in safeguarding within educational settings, emphasizing the need for updated training, resources, and collaborative efforts to ensure student safety.

Access your copy of the report by going to: <https://www.tes.com/en-gb/for-schools/content/safeguarding-report-2025>

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 Advanced Safeguarding Course: Wednesday 2nd July 2025 — [Book Online](#) LAST ONE FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

The on-demand version is available year-round and is updated regularly — [Book Online](#)

Other available courses:

- ~~Whole School Safeguarding 2024/2025 (2 hours + break)~~
Currently being updated
- Safeguarding Refresher
- Introduction to Cybersecurity
- Safeguarding and AI: Risks and Rewards
- Safeguarding for Governance
- Safeguarding Induction for New Staff

- Understanding Incel Culture and the Manosphere

Explore all our online courses at [Safeguarding.Pro](https://www.safeguarding.pro) – with full-year access included.

Until next time, keep safe!

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