

Safeguarding In Schools

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



Safeguarding Briefing - 19th May 2025

Safer Internet Day Impact Report - Safer Internet Centre

Safer Internet Day 2025 achieved unprecedented reach, engaging 57% of UK children aged 8–17 and 50% of parents and carers. Centred on the theme “Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online,” the initiative saw over 160,000 educational resources downloaded and 1,726 organisations register as supporters. Notably, 76% of young participants felt more confident addressing online concerns, while 71% of parents felt better equipped to safeguard their children online.

This year’s campaign also marked a 20% rise in parental awareness compared to 2024, reflecting growing concern about online scams. The official report highlights the vital role played by schools, youth groups, and social media influencers in amplifying the message. Resources included lesson plans, videos, and interactive activities. The UK Government and major tech platforms continue to support the Safer Internet Centre’s work, underlining a collaborative, cross-sector approach to online safety. The full impact report is available online.

Some practical follow-up actions for schools:

- Use the campaign resources for assemblies or PSHE lessons
- Encourage students to create scam-awareness posters or videos
- Review your online safety and digital resilience curriculum
- Discuss online scams in staff safeguarding briefings
- Involve digital leaders in promoting ongoing awareness activities

Read more here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/safer-internet-day-2025-reaches-more-parents-carers-and-young-people-than-ever-before>

Nurturing Neurodivergent Education Staff - Education Support

Education Support recently hosted an Instagram Live with Jaime Gilbert, focusing on supporting neurodivergent staff. Neurodivergent teachers, TAs, and education leaders are present in all tiers of education, making their wellbeing a core issue for school leaders. Gilbert discussed the unique challenges neurodivergent staff face and shared simple, practical mental health strategies. Watch the video here:

<https://www.educationsupport.org.uk/resources/for-individuals/videos/nurturing-neurodivergent-education-staff/>

The Hidden Dangers of scanning QR Codes - Action Fraud and Sky News

Cyber criminals are increasingly exploiting QR technology to direct people to malicious websites designed to steal people's personal and financial information.

QR codes have become a convenient part of everyday life—but they also carry hidden risks. A recent Sky News investigation revealed that organised crime groups are using QR code stickers across UK streets, including near schools, to promote illegal online cannabis delivery services. These links lead to slick websites offering next-day delivery, with transactions handled through banks and cryptocurrency. The products are often unregulated and potentially dangerous.

<https://news.sky.com/story/the-online-drug-trade-behind-qr-code-stickers-plastered-on-streets-across-the-uk-13365660>

Meanwhile, Action Fraud warns that criminals are also using fake QR codes to trick people into giving away personal or financial information. Some replace legitimate QR codes in car parks with scam versions, while others send malicious codes via email in phishing attacks known as 'quishing'.

To stay safe, only scan QR codes from trusted sources, avoid using third-party scanning apps, and double-check links before following them.

Suspicious QR code activity should be reported to Action Fraud at

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/qr-codes>

Children's Voices in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (DfE)

The Department for Education has published a child-friendly version of *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, including a downloadable booklet and animation to help young people understand safeguarding processes.

The guide, titled **A Guide to Safeguarding for Children and Young People**, explains how professionals like social workers, teachers, doctors, and police collaborate to keep children safe. It encourages children to speak up and reassures them that help is available.

This guide responds to calls for greater inclusion of children's voices in safeguarding. Access these child-friendly resources here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4ntSqMCSUI>

Question of the Week:

Question: If a colleague was consistently dismissing low-level safeguarding concerns, how would you handle it?

Suggested answer:

- You could start with a quiet, respectful conversation to understand their thinking. If they're new or inexperienced, they might not yet realise how important low-level concerns can be — a kind, clear explanation might help them learn.
- You could remind them that what looks minor on its own might contribute to a much bigger picture when concerns are joined up, especially in the chronology.
- If the person is more experienced and should know better, it's still worth starting with a respectful conversation — but you might be more direct in highlighting their professional responsibility and safeguarding duties.
- Either way, you should also speak directly to the DSL — don't wait to see if the person improves their response. It's vital to make sure that concerns are not being missed.

- It's also important to check whether any previously unreported concerns are missing, so the chronology can be updated to ensure it is accurate.
 - If it felt like part of a wider issue — for example, if others are unsure too — you could also share your wider observations with the DSL, so they can be addressed in training.
 - Remember, this isn't about blame. It's about protecting children and supporting a strong safeguarding culture.
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Booking availability in July 2025

Due to a change in my holiday plans, I now have a few dates unexpectedly available between 7th and 18th July. If that sounds helpful to you, please contact us office@safeguardingschools.co.uk

Real-Time Filtering in a World of Generative AI: What Schools and Colleges Need to Understand (SWGfL)

As generative AI creates content in real time, the limits of traditional filtering systems in schools are being exposed. This article from SWGfL highlights why static keyword filters and outdated blocklists may no longer be enough to protect students from harmful or inappropriate material. It explains the concept of real-time filtering, how AI-driven content complicates safeguarding online, and why schools and colleges must review and adapt their filtering and monitoring systems. With the digital landscape shifting rapidly, it's vital that school leaders understand the emerging risks – and their responsibilities.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/real-time-filtering-in-a-world-of-generative-ai-what-schools-and-colleges-need-to-understand/>

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: Thursday, 12th June 2025 — [Book Online](#)

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)
- 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!

Andrew Hall

Specialist Safeguarding Consultant

Director, Success In Schools Ltd.

Are you a busy DSL with no time?

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