

Safeguarding In Schools

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



Safeguarding Briefing - 2nd June 2025

A Guide to Looksmaxxing – White Hatter

We often talk about the problems facing young girls in the social media space. Yet young men are also coming under pressure from the rise of social media. The term 'Looksmaxxing' is used to describe the pursuit of maximising one's physical appearance. This trend is often focused on males. At its shallowest end, the trend involves positive steps such as basic self-care instruction, personal grooming advice and physical training motivation. However, the escalation ladder can lead to increasingly dangerous advice which can impact on mental and physical health. To read more, please follow the link below:

<https://www.thewhitehatter.ca/post/the-rise-of-looksmaxxing-and-how-teen-boys-see-themselves>

Guidance for Cross Channel Trips – Department for Education

The end of the school year is rapidly approaching. The time for educational visits to the continent may be around the corner, as the weather gets much better and opportunities expand. The changes to the UK-EU relationship have resulted in enhanced bureaucracy and controls at our joint border. For the UK the most commonly used entrance to the Union, is the Dover to Calais crossing which together compose the channel border. The Department for Education has published its latest guidance on how to make it as easy as possible. School groups travelling across this border can reduce the substantial processing time, by following this guidance. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dover-to-calais-school-trips>

Advice for Dealing with Nudes – Think Before You Share

School aged males and females are engaged in sharing intimate materials. This is a byproduct of the internet age. Educational professionals have a strong role to play in keeping children safe online, and making sure they're aware of the associated dangers. However, speaking to secondary age pupils about this issue can be a difficult affair. The personal nature and potentially embarrassing subject matter, can make it hard to know what to say. This can be particularly tricky since this behaviour can be transmitted through social media programmes and personal messaging acts. This can lead to bullying, inter-personal issues and general harms. Think Before You Share has written excellent guidance on dealing with this problem, if interested please follow the link below:

<https://www.thinkbeforeyoushare.org/teachers-and-educators>

EU Servers and Child Sexual Abuse – Internet Watch Foundation

The Internet Watch Foundation has recently published data that has shown an exponential increase, in child sexual abuse imagery hosted in the EU. A total of 62% of child abuse imagery hosted in 2024 was traced to the EU, of which the Netherlands remains the most common. The number of links discovered leading to child sexual abuse imagery has also broken records, at 291,273 times in 2024. To find out more about these revelations and the relevant data sets, please follow the link below:

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/news-media/news/charity-raises-alarm-over-surge-in-level-of-child-sexual-abuse-imagery-hosted-in-eu/>

Question of the Week

Q: What is one safeguarding concern that staff sometimes overlook because it feels 'too small' to report?

One Answer:

Staff sometimes overlook *small but repeated changes in a child's appearance, behaviour or mood* because they don't seem serious enough to report on their own. For example, a child coming in without a coat on cold days, appearing unusually tired, or becoming quiet when

they were previously talkative. These signs can be brushed off as “just a one-off” or “not worth bothering the DSL with.”

But safeguarding is often about patterns – and unless someone shares that small observation, the bigger picture may never emerge. It’s not about overreacting; it’s about passing the baton so the DSL can decide whether it fits into something more concerning.

Other examples of small things often missed:

- A pupil who suddenly stops bringing packed lunch or seems hungrier than usual
- A child flinching slightly when touched or startled
- Subtle but repeated changes in hygiene or clothing
- Drawings, writing, or play that contain worrying themes
- Whispered conversations about things that “mustn’t be told”
- Unexplained anxiety about going home or about a particular adult

Message to staff:

No concern is too small. If you’re wondering whether to tell someone – that’s usually a sign that you should.

Kate and Bryony's Wing Walk

You may be wondering how my wife, Kate, and her colleague, Bryony, got on with their Wing Walk in half-term. Disappointingly the wind was too fierce and the Wing Walk had to be postponed. They were disappointed, but I couldn't believe how disappointed I was too.

A new date will be arranged in due course and I'll keep you informed.

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

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- Safeguarding and AI: Risks and Rewards
- Safeguarding for Governance
- Safeguarding Induction for New Staff
- Understanding Incel Culture and the Manosphere

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Until next time, keep safe!

Andrew Hall

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