

Safeguarding In Schools

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



Safeguarding Briefing - 5th May 2025

UPDATED Protective security and preparedness for education settings (DfE)

Updated non-statutory guidance has been released to help schools and other education settings strengthen their preparedness for terrorism and major incidents. It sets out simple, cost-effective steps to safeguard learners, staff, and volunteers through practical planning and a strong security culture.

Drawing on advice from the National Counter-Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO), the guidance includes editable templates, real-life examples, and interactive resources. It is suitable for early years settings, schools, colleges, alternative provision, and out-of-school settings.

Key Actions for Schools:

- **Appoint a Security Lead** to oversee emergency planning and act as incident lead if needed.
- **Review and test plans** for lockdown, invacuation, evacuation, and bomb threats, ensuring they meet the needs of all learners, including those with SEND.
- **Train all staff** to recognise suspicious behaviour (SCaN), assess suspicious items (HOT protocol), and respond to incidents (RUN HIDE TELL).
- **Use the self-assessment tool** (Annex D) to review current plans and identify gaps.
- **Prepare a 'grab kit'** with essential items to support response efforts, especially for those with additional needs.

All staff are encouraged to read the guidance and familiarise themselves with their role in keeping the school community safe.

To read the guidance and download the audit documents, go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-security-and-preparedness-for-education-settings>

UPDATE How to prepare for outdoor education visits that may involve large crowds (OEAP)

The Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel (OEAP) has updated its National Guidance to address the challenges of educational visits involving large crowds. The revised document, 7.2k Group Safety in Crowded Places, offers practical advice for planning visits to events or locations where crowds may gather, such as festivals, sporting events, or busy urban areas.

Key points from the guidance include:

- The need for robust planning and supervision strategies.
- Importance of clear communication before and during the visit.
- Thorough risk assessments tailored to the specific crowd context.
- Contingency plans for emergencies, including lost pupils.
- Recognition of the heightened vulnerability of young people in crowds.
- Encouragement to liaise with event organisers and local authorities where appropriate.

You can find the guidance here: <https://oeapng.info/17102-outdoor-education-visits-that-may-involve-large-crowds/>

Charity Wing Walk for Alex, The Leukodystrophy Charity! Thank you for your donations

Thank you so much for all your lovely donations for my wife's upcoming Wing Walk for an amazing charity: Alex, The Leukodystrophy Charity who provide valuable support to families affected with leukodystrophies.

Leukodystrophies are rare genetic disorders that mainly affect the white matter of the central nervous system (ie the brain or spinal cord). They affect people of all ages and backgrounds, most notably children. Leukodystrophies are usually degenerative and in many cases, this sadly means a reduced or limited lifespan.

If you can find time to gift a donation to keep Kate and her colleague, Bryony, standing on the wing of a biplane, I know that more children and families will really appreciate the help that Alex, The Leukodystrophy Charity, can give them.

Please donate by going to: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/catherine-hall-1>

Misrepresentation of Brain Research for Parents - White Hatter

The increase in the use of social media has led to an increase in misrepresentation of facts. This is largely down to the small-snippet format in which most social media content is shaped into. Scientific language is often used to allow for these snippets to be as short as possible. By using scientific language the content becomes more credible and also allows for fewer words to be used, which would otherwise be implemented to gain the trust of the reader.

Since social media is used by all, parents and adults responsible for social care of minors may find themselves influenced by seemingly 'trustworthy' information. However, what is often missing is the peer-reviewed literature that gives such information context and makes it intelligible as part of a wider picture.

As social media usage continues to rise, this phenomena will become more of a problem. White Hatter has recently published an article which explores this issue, and seeks to inform on its prevention. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://thewhitehatter.ca/blog/parents-be-wary-of-pseudo-science-presented-as-evidence-based-brain-research/>

WEBINAR: Creating Safe Spaces: Introducing Therapeutic Supervision in Schools with Kate Hall

Online on Zoom | Tuesday 3rd June 2025 4:00 - 5:30pm | £59

Booking available again (Sorry! There was an error on the booking site, which erroneously showed the webinar as fully booked. This has now been fixed.)

Staff wellbeing sits at the heart of safe, thriving school communities. In this 90-minute webinar, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist Catherine Hall (MEd. Cantab) will introduce therapeutic supervision — a relational, person-centred way to support staff working in the high-pressure world of education.

This session is ideal for school leaders, Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), SENCOs, wellbeing leads, teachers, and school-based counsellors. Catherine will share practical strategies, real-life case studies, and a clear framework to help you explore how therapeutic supervision could work in your setting. Together, we will look at the Therapeutic Supervision Triangle, think through ethical considerations, and consider ways to measure the impact.

Join us for an opportunity to rethink how we support staff — not just as a 'nice to have', but as an essential part of building strong relationships, resilience, and reflective practice across the whole school community.

To book, go to:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/harbourcounselling/1678681>

Pornography and the Adolescent Brain - The Reward Foundation

One effect of the increasing use of the internet and the exponential speeding up of broadband speeds has been the expansion of pornography's user base. Pornographic websites and the adult industry more broadly, has become one of the key drivers of internet use.

Its incessant movement to drive user traffic has seen quasi-pornographic material appear on social media sites, in particular instagram and tik-tok. These sites, particularly the latter, are frequented by under-18s due to weak user identification systems and consequent age verification methods. Their viewing of this 'adult' marketing has produced a direct pipeline from social media into pornographic sites and as a result, has produced a generation of minors who can easily access pornography whenever and wherever they like.

This has inspired 'The Reward Foundation' to produce training aimed at informing pupils of the danger of pornography to their mental wellbeing. Across seven free lessons crafted by accredited trainers, they seek to arm schools and pupils with the knowledge they need to avoid falling afoul of this growing danger. If interested, please follow the link below:

Question of the Week

Question

What's the most powerful thing an adult in school can say to a child to help them feel safe and supported?

Answer

The aim of this questions is to:

- Shift focus from policy to daily practice
- Encourage empathy and child-centred thinking
- Promote consistent, safe messaging across staff
- Spark practical reflection and real-world application
- Reinforce that every adult plays a safeguarding role

Roblox and Parental Controls - South West Grid for Learning

Roblox, the popular minecraft 'style' game has announced a new raft of parental controls. The website which ranks among the most popular games for children in the e-space, has previously been accused of possessing weak child protection tools. Their new raft of adaptations is important due to the game's position among school aged children. The new features have been adopted to allow parents to take control of their children's game time in a more comprehensive manner.

Parents will now be able to block individuals who communicate with their children, as well as have more detailed oversight over their usage of the programme. Real-time awareness measures have been increased and these changes represent a big step forward in making popular multiplayer games more secure for underaged users. If interested, the South-West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) has produced a comprehensive run down of these changes. Please follow the link below for more:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/roblox-launches-new-parental-controls/>

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 for DSLs
is Thursday, 8th May 2025 [Book Online](#)**

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 2024/2025 (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 and AI: Risks and Rewards
- Safeguarding for Governance
- Safeguarding Induction for new staff
- Understanding Incel Culture and the Manosphere

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

Until next time, keep safe!

Andrew Hall
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Director, Success In Schools Ltd.

Are you a busy DSL with no time?

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