

Safeguarding Briefing

Edited by Andrew Hall
Specialist Safeguarding Consultant



Monday 9th February 2026

Wellbeing Monitor - Introductory Webinar (Free)

Tuesday 10th February 2026

Wellbeing Monitor is a confidential digital tool designed to support staff working in emotionally demanding roles, offering simple wellbeing check-ins, guided reflection and practical self-care resources.

Following the launch of Wellbeing Monitor last week, we've had a high level of interest from schools and safeguarding professionals.

To respond to questions and explore how it fits alongside safeguarding and supervision systems, I thought it would be helpful to offer a free webinar on **Tuesday 10th February 2026, 3.30–4.30pm**. You can register here: <https://event.webinarjam.com/channel/wbm01>

In the meantime, you can watch a short video walkthrough and find out more here: <https://www.smhl.pro/wellbeinginformation>



Sexual and Sexist Bullying - Anti-Bullying Alliance

Sexual and sexist bullying covers a wide range of behaviours, and while definitions may vary, schools need a shared and practical understanding to recognise concerns early and respond effectively. These behaviours often overlap with sexual harassment and harmful sexual behaviour, and are most likely to persist when dismissed as “banter” or “part of growing up”. Unlike other forms of bullying, sexist and misogynistic bullying can function as a way of policing gender norms, particularly where girls and young women are perceived to be stepping outside expected roles.

Girls are disproportionately affected, but boys, LGBT children, and children with SEND are also at increased risk, especially where power imbalances and vulnerability are present. Sexual and sexist bullying can occur in any school community and must be addressed with clarity, consistency and a firm safeguarding focus, balancing cultural sensitivity with an absolute duty to keep children safe. You can read more about how sexual and sexist bullying is defined and responded to here:

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/sexual-and-sexist-bullying>

Safeguarding Scenarios

Safeguarding Scenarios is a new online platform giving practitioners the opportunity to work through real-life scenarios, with a focus on building confidence and strengthening organisational safeguarding culture, rather than incident reporting or monitoring.

You can try a free National Online Safety Day scenario here:

www.safeguardingscenarios.com/national-online-safety-day-scenario

The trial scenario is open to anyone and will be available until midnight on Tuesday, 17 February 2026. National results and reflections will be shared once the scenario closes.

Free Webinar: What Martyn's Law means for schools with Louis Donald and Figen Murphy OBE

Tuesday February 24th 2026

Martyn's Law, formally known as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act, is UK legislation requiring organisations to take proportionate steps to protect people from the risk of terrorist attacks.

Figen Murray OBE, Martyn's mother and the leading campaigner for the law, will join Louis Donald for a free EduShield webinar 'Understanding what Martyn's Law means for Education' which will cutting through the myth, misinterpretation and unnecessary anxiety about what this means for schools.

Designed specifically for schools, colleges and trusts, the webinar will focus on:

- What the legislation genuinely requires of education
- Why most school and college events are explicitly excluded
- Where responsibilities sit for leaders and governors
- How emergency preparedness fits within safeguarding

Sign up is via this free webinar via EventBrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1982179258521>

Autistic and OK - Ambitious About Autism

In busy school settings, autistic pupils may experience increased stress when environments and expectations are not well matched to their needs, which can affect wellbeing and mental health. The *Autistic and OK* toolkit from Ambitious About Autism supports a strengths-based, pupil-centred approach, helping schools better understand autistic experiences and the impact of school life on wellbeing. It encourages listening to autistic voices and supporting pupils to develop self-awareness and coping strategies, rather than expecting them to adapt unsupported.

<https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/what-we-do/services/i-am-an-autistic-young-person/wellbeing-toolkits/autistic-and-ok>

Question of the Week

A member of staff receives an email that looks like it's from the headteacher, asking them to urgently share a pupil report via a link. What are the three checks they should make before clicking or responding and why do these checks matter for safeguarding, not just cyber security?

Suggested answer

Before clicking or responding, the member of staff should check:

The sender details carefully

Check the full email address, not just the display name. Senior leaders' names are commonly used in phishing because they create urgency and compliance.

Safeguarding link: Impersonation can lead to unauthorised access to sensitive pupil information.

The tone and urgency of the request

Unexpected pressure, secrecy, or "urgent" language should trigger caution. Safeguarding processes rarely rely on rushed, informal requests for data.

Safeguarding link: Rushed decisions increase the risk of data breaches that can expose children to harm.

The link or method being used to share information

Hover over links and ask whether this is the school's agreed, secure method for sharing pupil data. If unsure, do not click.

Safeguarding link: Insecure sharing can lead to confidential information being accessed, misused, or circulated beyond the school's control.

What should happen next?

The member of staff should pause, not click, and verify the request using a trusted route (for example, speaking directly to the headteacher or DSL). If there is any doubt that pupil data may be at risk, it should be treated as a safeguarding concern and shared promptly with the DSL and IT lead.

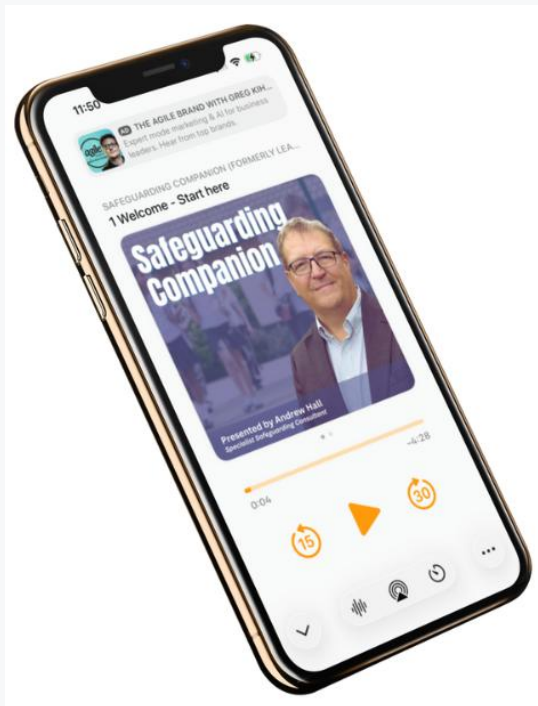
Safeguarding Companion - Latest Episode

Managing digital access as a safeguarding risk (18 minutes)

In this episode specialist safeguarding consultant, Andrew Hall examines cybersecurity as a safeguarding issue in schools.

Using two real cases, a large scale nursery data breach and a serious attack by a former employee, the episode explores how access to systems, data handling, and trust can place children and families at risk.

The episode considers why cybersecurity failures should be understood as safeguarding concerns, not just technical problems.



The Safeguarding Companion is a private audio feed for safeguarding leads, DSLs and school leaders. Most episodes are available only to members. From time to time, we share an episode with everyone, so you can listen and decide whether it's useful for you.

[Hear a sample edition of the Safeguarding Companion](#)

[Join Safeguarding Companion £9.97/month](#)

Cybersecurity Free Webinar (Southwest Grid for Learning)

On **Thursday 26th February 2026**, the Southwest Grid for Learning (SWGfL) will be hosting a one hour cybersecurity seminar from 2:00 to 3:00pm.

The session will be geared towards those who want to move beyond awareness and be instructed in how to build cyber-resilience in their institution.

The seminar is perfect for DSLs, Senior Leaders, IT Leads, or governors. The webinar will be hosting Tim Line from Secure Schools, Ken Cornish from 360 Safe, Tim Hall from the King's School and Paul Slater from SmartDesc.

The session will conclude with a Q&A, if interested in tickets please follow the link below:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/book-tickets-for-free-webinar-strengthening-cybersecurity-in-schools>

Half-term

Many schools are closed for half-term next week. If that's true for you, have a lovely time whatever you have planned.

The Safeguarding Briefing will be back again on 23rd February 2026.

Forthcoming Courses

Advanced Safeguarding for Designated Safeguarding Leads

"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 11th February 2026 [Book Online](#)

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

Take a look at our other courses here:

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

Many of our online courses are available in [Safeguarding.Pro](#) with full-year access included.

Until next time, keep safe,

Andrew Hall

Specialist Safeguarding Consultant

A promotional banner for the 'Safeguarding Companion' audio series. On the left, a smartphone displays the app's interface. The background is dark blue. The title 'Safeguarding Companion' is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, the text 'Learn more about the Safeguarding Companion audio series' is in a smaller white font. At the bottom center, a white underlined link says 'Click to find out more'. On the right, there is a portrait of a man with glasses, identified as Andrew Hall.

Safeguarding Companion
Learn more about the Safeguarding Companion audio series
[Click to find out more](#)