

Safeguarding In Schools

with Specialist Safeguarding Consultant, **Andrew Hall**



Safeguarding Briefing - 9th June 2025

Harmful Content Trends 2024 – Southwest Grid for Learning

The South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) has recently published its Harmful Content Report 2024, commissioned last year. The report reveals a 20.5% year-on-year increase in harmful content cases, with 6,222 reports handled over the past 12 months.

In 86% of cases, harmful content was successfully removed—often within hours—and nearly half were resolved within 24 hours. Notably, 24% of the reports involved children under 18, with a significant number concerning those under 12. The report also highlights that 37% of harmful content was hosted on smaller or less regulated platforms, pointing to a growing risk in these online spaces.

As demand for impartial, trusted support continues to grow, SWGfL is expanding its guidance and service provision to better support those affected.

To explore the full report or learn more about SWGfL's work, please follow the link below:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/reports-of-harmful-content-rise-by-20-in-2024/>

Partnerships for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) – UK Department for Education

PINS is a new project being undertaken by the UK Government via the Department of Education. The project was released on the 4th of June, and is designed to bring specialists in neurodivergent issues into mainstream education. These projects are tasked with shaping whole-

school special educational or SEND provision. It is expected to improve the provision of early intervention, increase staff skills in regards to addressing issues stemming from neurodivergence and to support the strengthening of school-parent relationships. PINS aims to leave a sustainable long-lasting impact, with delivery occurring from 2025 to 2026. If interested in finding out more, please follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/partnerships-for-inclusion-of-neurodiversity-in-schools-pins/partnerships-for-inclusion-of-neurodiversity-in-schools-pins-programme>

Filtering and Monitoring for 2025 – UK Safer Internet Centre

Earlier in 2025, the UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) has produced an updated set of definitions for appropriate filtering and monitoring. These definitions work to uplift educational settings and improve providers engagement with filtering and monitoring practice. In particular practice regarding what is considered appropriate in terms of safeguarding responsibilities, in an increasingly complex webspace.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/2025-appropriate-filtering-and-monitoring-definitions-published>

Job Opportunity: Head of Safeguarding (IntoUniversity)

IntoUniversity is an award-winning charity that runs local learning centres providing an innovative education programme for children and young people aged 7-18.

IntoUniversity are looking for a Head of Safeguarding to be responsible for strategic leadership of safeguarding. They will work closely with the Safeguarding Manager to manage concerns across the IntoUniversity network and provide crucial safeguarding support to frontline staff who deliver the charity's programmes.

This role can be either full-time or part-time (0.8 FTE).

Application deadline: Monday 23rd June 2025 9am

Find out more here: <https://intouniversity.org/work-or-volunteer-with-us/join-our-team/current-opportunities/>

Question of the Week

If a child starts making concerning comments in their creative writing or artwork, how should you respond?

Possible Answer

If something in a child's writing or artwork concerns you, don't ignore it. Note down what you've seen or heard exactly as it is. You might have a gentle chat with the child if it feels natural, but don't press them. Let your Designated Safeguarding Lead know straight away, children often use their creative work to tell us when something isn't right.

Operation Encompass report shows inconsistencies (TES)

A report in *The TES* found that, despite Operation Encompass becoming a legal requirement in April 2024, inconsistent and delayed notifications continue to put children at risk.

Some schools report receiving alerts several days or even weeks after domestic abuse incidents occur. In one local authority area, the average delay was six days. In Suffolk, more than half of all domestic abuse notifications in January 2025 were not passed on to schools—only 231 out of 531 incidents were shared.

Even when alerts are sent, many lack essential information such as the child's name, role in the incident, and whether they were present. This makes it harder for schools to respond effectively or to provide timely support. Some forces, such as Merseyside, have adopted automated systems that deliver alerts within 15 minutes. However, others still rely on manual, error-prone methods, leading to missed or incorrect notifications.

Safeguarding leads should be proactive in monitoring the quality and timing of alerts. Concerns about delays or missing detail should be raised with local safeguarding partners, and schools are encouraged to draw on examples of best practice to help improve local arrangements.

Operation Encompass remains a vital tool, but unless it is implemented consistently and reliably, children at risk may not receive the support they need.

Read the full article at:

<https://www.tes.com/magazine/analysis/general/safeguarding-law-operation-encompass-children-at-risk>

Advanced Safeguarding for DSLs

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Next live online Advanced Safeguarding Course: Thursday, 12th June 2025 — [Book Online](#)

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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](#) – with full-year access included.

Until next time, keep safe!

Andrew Hall

Specialist Safeguarding Consultant

Director, Success In Schools Ltd.

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