

Safeguarding Bulletin – 3 December 2025

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Safeguarding bulletin



Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

Safeguarding
in Schools

>> Schools Safeguarding Forum – TOMORROW (Thursday 4 December, 9.30am to 12.30pm)

Next Schools Safeguarding Forum will take place on **Thursday 4 December 2025, 9.30am to 12.30pm at Southwark Council's Tooley Street Office, Room G01ABC, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH.** The agenda will include:

- Update from Southwark Children Social Care (MASH and Assessment & Intervention Teams)
- Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) Neglect toolkit
- Private fostering update
- Exploring the role and impact of school policing by Safer Schools Sergeant
- Peer support activity: sharing best practice around challenges of the DSL role

The Forum aims to keep schools/educational settings up to date with local and national changes and give access to best practice and resources. It is open to all designated and deputy designated safeguarding leads, senior leaders, chairs of governors and/or nominated lead governors for safeguarding in all types of Southwark schools and educational settings. It is also an opportunity to meet and network with other designated and deputy designated safeguarding leads as well as colleagues from other Council departments and partner agencies.

Please ensure that at least one member of your safeguarding team attends this session. **You do not need to register or book in advance and can join the session on the day.**

Southwark news

>> Don't miss out on sharing your views about planned changes to DSL/DDSL training!

From the Summer Term 2026, Southwark's designated and deputy designated safeguarding leads training will be delivered by the Safeguarding in Schools team, with input from other Southwark services and partner agencies. We want to ensure the new training works for schools and provides the right foundation for the DSL/DDSL roles. Please complete the survey to share your views, as this will be closing soon.

>> Free to Be Kids

Free to Be Kids is a charity that supports disadvantaged and vulnerable children with their social and emotional health through fun nature-based therapeutically structured residentials and follow-on support such as mentoring. Their Thrive Outside residentials are 5 day residential holidays for 8 to 12 year olds to help them grow in confidence, make new friends, have new experiences and feel brave and special through their trauma-informed approach and high adult ratios. They work with children who struggle at school, home and with peer relationships, and need support in building resilience, confidence, and social skills, as a result of trauma, poverty or other adversities. If you would like to find out more or refer to their service, please see their [Thrive Outside Referrers Leaflet](#) or email referrals@freetobekids.org.uk.

Other news

>> Pupil experiences in school: academic year 2024 to 2025

Department for Education (DfE) has recently published a report that brings together both new data and previously published data from the Parent, Pupil and Learner Voice survey. The report states: "The aim of this publication is to collate and present data collected via DfE's omnibus surveys on pupils' experiences in schools. It includes indicators such as sense of school belonging, enjoyment, safety and relationships with education staff – helping schools to understand key factors impacting school attendance, engagement in learning, behaviour and attainment. Every child should feel they belong in a school that is safe, calm, supportive and inspires them to do well. Understanding children and young people's experiences is essential to help us understand how we can best support them to attend, achieve and thrive."

>> Teacher Wellbeing Index 2025

The mental health and wellbeing of teachers and education staff is equally important. [The UK charity Education Support](#), dedicated to supporting the mental

health and wellbeing of teachers and education staff in schools, colleges and universities has published their annual report, which may make an interesting reading. According to the report, this year's overall wellbeing score is the lowest since they began recording it in 2019. Education Support also runs a helpline for school staff (**08000 562 561**) for immediate, confidential support including advice, counselling or coaching.

>> **Safer Internet Day 2026 Education Resources**

[Safer Internet Day 2026](#) will take place on 10 February 2026, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) created a range of free educational resources for use with 3 to 7, 7 to 11, 11 to 14 and 14 to 18 year olds, with each resource pack containing presentation slides, activities and also an assembly for the whole school to help deliver sessions for Safer Internet Day.

>> **Government launches national conversation on SEND**

Acting on commitment to make sure parents play a central role in helping shape the future Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system, the DfE will be hosting a series of SEND Engagement events across the country, for parents, carers, school staff and SEND professionals, and other key interested stakeholders, and five online events covering the department's five principles of reform ahead of the publication of the Schools White Paper early next year. There will be [nine face-to-face SEND Regional Engagement Events with the DfE](#) and [SEND Reform National Conversation - Online Series](#).

>> **Six simple safety tips to keep children safe this Christmas**

Some useful tips from [The Child Accident Prevention Trust](#) that you may want to share with your families.

>> **Children, violence and vulnerability 2025 – Violence in relationships**

The findings published in the second report by [The Youth Endowment Fund](#) shed light on the prevalence of emotional, physical and sexual abuse among teenagers, the impact of abuse, and their views on consent and sexual aggression. The report highlights the urgent need for education and intervention to prevent relationship violence and promote healthy relationships.

- **28%** of teenagers said they'd been in a romantic relationship in the past year
 - Of those, **39%** experienced emotional or physical abuse – that's over one in ten of all teenagers, or roughly 390,000 young people across England and Wales.
- **36%** experienced emotional abuse, including:
 - Partner checking their phone or social media (19%)
 - Monitoring their location (14%)
 - Criticising their appearance (11%)

- **15%** experienced physical or sexual abuse, including:
 - Being forced or pressured into sex (10%)
 - Being physically hurt (7.2%)
 - Having explicit images shared online (5.1%)

Organisations referenced in this bulletin are not necessarily commissioned or endorsed by Southwark council. Please apply your own due diligence.

Find out more about support from [Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team](#)

For safeguarding resources and training information visit [Safeguarding in Education](#)