

Safeguarding Bulletin – 7 January 2026

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Safeguarding bulletin



Welcome back
from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team



>> Continuing support available to schools and educational settings from our Safeguarding in Schools Team

We hope you had a restful break and are feeling ready for the new term ahead. As a reminder, the Safeguarding in Schools Team is here to support you. You can [find out more about what we do](#) on our website. We are also excited to announce that we are making some changes to the safeguarding training available this year. [Our flyer explains what is on offer](#), with [more information available about the changes online](#). To find out more or book, contact Apo (apo.cagirici@southwark.gov.uk, 020 7525 2715 / 07946 453527) or Emma (emma.geiringer@southwark.gov.uk, 07860 354934)

Southwark training opportunities

>> [Southwark's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training offer](#)

Southwark's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training calendar until the end of March 2026 that includes face to face and virtual sessions as well as all the Safeguarding related e-learning modules.

>> Southwark Virtual School Spring Training Programme

The Virtual School invites Designated Teachers for Looked After Children to attend their training sessions. There are live links to the online training and please note that the Designated Teacher training morning in pink on 28.1.26 is in person at Tooley Street.

Southwark news

>> Referrals to Southwark MASH

Just to remind that referrals to Southwark MASH are made using the [online Southwark Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub \(MASH\) Referral Form](#). Please note the [Referring to Southwark MASH: best practice guidance](#) that will help make an effective referral. Please also remember that schools can call MASH on 020 7525 1921 and/or email the MASH inbox (mash@southwark.gov.uk) **to follow up on referrals**.

>> Southwark Virtual School Attachment Research Community (ARC) membership and accreditation for schools

Southwark Virtual School is delighted to announce that both Dulwich Hamlet Junior School and Surrey Square have now joined Beormund as gold accredited trauma-informed and attachment aware schools. This is a real tribute to their considered work in supporting their school communities and embedding a relational lens in their school development. Over 60 Southwark schools are now signed up as members of ARC. Please sign up at [Southwark Virtual School – Free membership of Attachment Research Community 2025-6](#) if you would like your school to benefit from membership.

A number of schools are working with the Virtual School towards accreditation through [Attachment Research Community \(ARC\)](#) and the Virtual School would be delighted to hear from others who would like to gain this nationally recognised kite mark for their trauma-informed work. Please contact Katherine.bainbridge@southwark.gov.uk for further information.

>> Mental health support in Southwark

- **Southwark Wellbeing Hub**
Drop-in service: Wednesdays 12noon to 3pm.
Call: 0800 368 8433, Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.
- **The Nest Southwark** provides wellbeing support for young adults, children and families.
Drop-in service: Saturdays 10.30am to 2.30pm
Call: 020 8138 1805.

>> Cost of Living support from Southwark Council

Information about how the Council can support through the rising cost of living. You may want to share the Southwark Council's cost of living booklet with anyone who might benefit.

Other news

>> Children's Commissioner launches guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a guide to help parents and carers manage children's digital lives. The guide aims to explain common online challenges, help families start and sustain open conversations, and provide support with setting boundaries. The guide includes a checklist of actions and an additional activity pack for children.

>> New 'Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools' guidance comes into effect on 1 April 2026

This new guidance about the use of physical restraint in schools for governing bodies, headteachers and school staff will replace the 'Use of reasonable force in schools' guidance, which remains effective until 31 March 2026.

>> [Safer Internet Day 2026 – Free Educational Resources](#)

[Safer Internet Day 2026](#) will take place on the 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](#) have created free 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.

>> [Winter safety guide: Top tips for keeping children safe this winter](#)

As the weather gets colder, there are extra hazards to watch out for. That's why [The Child Accident Prevention Trust](#) created a new winter safety guide with top tips for keeping children safe from serious accidents this season that you may want to share with parents/carers.

Other training opportunities

>> [Free online training sessions from the London Safeguarding Children Partnership \(LSCP\) – Jan/Feb/Mar 2026](#)

Free online training sessions next three months from LSCP that may be of interest.

>> [Combat Extremism in the Classroom: FREE Webinar for Schools](#)

This 1-hour webinar on 4 February, 3.45pm to 4.45pm by [London Grid for Learning \(LGfL\)](#) gives PSHE/RSHE and safeguarding leads an overview of effective strategies, cross-curricular activities and resources to help build young people's resilience to extremism, promote critical thinking online and empower staff to manage challenging conversations. The webinar is suitable for Safeguarding, PSHE/RSHE and curriculum leads, Senior Leaders and Governors in all schools.

>> [Free 'Safeguarding from Child Criminal Exploitation' Training: 29 January](#)

This interactive session provided by [London Grid for Learning \(LGfL\)](#) on a number of dates is suitable for DSLs and Senior Leaders, provides a detailed exploration of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). The trainers with lived experience of gangs and serious youth violence will share practical ideas and effective strategies to identify risk, support young people and work effectively with parents and carers, as part of a whole school approach to safeguarding.

>> [Self-Initiated Terrorism Presentation by Counter Terrorism Policing – London](#)

This presentation aims to increase the awareness and knowledge of Self-Initiated Terrorism behaviours and to encourage you to spot the signs and to have the confidence to report behavioural changes in individuals, potential hostile reconnaissance, and other pre-attack indicators. The presentations will feature the COM-B model. This is capability, opportunity and motivation which leads to the behaviour. The session will also include a case study to highlight the potential pre-attack indicators.

The session dates and times are:

- 21 January 2026, 1.00pm to 2.30 pm – [Self-Initiated Terrorism Presentation - 21 January](#)
- 10 February 2026, 1.00pm to 2.30 pm – [Self-Initiated Terrorism Presentation - 10 February](#)

The presentation lasts just under the hour and then there will be time for questions.

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](#)

