

Safeguarding Bulletin – 21 January 2026

Southwark Council sent this bulletin at 21-01-2026 03:59 PM GMT

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Safeguarding bulletin



Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

Safeguarding
in Schools

Southwark news

>> [Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership \(SSCP\) Child Sexual Abuse Survey](#)

The SSCP are undertaking a multi-agency audit of responses to child sexual abuse as part of response to "[The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report - I wanted them all to notice](#)". Information collected through this form will help understand the current confidence levels in Southwark schools DSLs and practitioners in reporting child sexual abuse and consider future partnership approach to responding to concerns of child sexual abuse, including any safeguarding and child protection training offers. Please take the time to complete this survey which should take no more than 10 minutes. The deadline for completion is **20 February 2026**.

>> [Warm spaces in Southwark](#)

Southwark Council funds over 40 Warm Spaces across Southwark, including in all libraries and leisure centres. These are free, warm, and welcoming places where

anyone can drop in, spend time and meet people. Many Warm Spaces also offer hot drinks, food, and advice on cost of living.

Other news

>> **Navigating puberty and sexual development: Resources for parents and carers of children and young people who have a learning disability**

NSPCC Learning has updated its resources on navigating puberty and sexual development for children and young people who have a learning disability, which may be of interest to relevant parents and carers. The resources include a guide for parents on navigating puberty, and a series of symbolised booklets exploring bodies and behaviours. New content includes a guide for parents and carers on humping and thrusting behaviour to help them understand and respond to this behaviour in a supportive, non-shaming and proactive way.

Also, [Safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\)](#) by NSPCC contains some useful information.

>> **DfE's revised guidance on mobile phones in schools for 2026**

DfE published revised guidance on mobile phones in schools in January 2026 and advise schools to start using this guidance from April 2026.

- 'Mobile phones in schools' explains how to develop, implement and maintain a policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones in school.
- 'Communicating your policy for prohibiting the use of mobile phones in schools to parents' has guidance on how to communicate with parents about your policy and facts and figures to support discussions.
- 'Creating a mobile phone-free environment: school case studies' gives examples of how primary and secondary schools have successfully implemented a mobile phone free-school environment.

>> **DfE's updated 'Generative AI: product safety standards' guidance**

The guidance on the capabilities and features that generative AI products and systems should meet to be considered safe for users in educational settings has been updated to include new standards on cognitive development, emotional and social development, mental health, and manipulation. These standards are for edtech developers and suppliers to schools and colleges. **Schools and colleges may also find them helpful in assessing which AI products are safe for use in education.**

>> Applications are now open for Young Anti-Bullying Alliance (YABA) 2026 for 13 to 17 year olds

YABA is a powerful, youth leadership programme of 13 to 17-year-olds who are standing up to bullying and shaping a kinder, more inclusive future. Working alongside the [Anti-Bullying Alliance \(ABA\)](#), these young people bring their lived experiences, passion, and ideas to the heart of ABA's national anti-bullying work across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. **Would pupils at your school be interested in taking part in YABA?**

Other training opportunities

>> Free webinar: Prevention, necessity and proportionality - the implications of the new guidance on restrictive interventions

New '[Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools](#)' guidance comes into effect on 1 April 2026. This guidance illustrates how and when school staff can use restrictive interventions including reasonable force and seclusion to keep pupils and others safe. This free webinar on [5 February 2026 4.00pm to 5.00pm](#) and [10 March 2026 4.00pm to 5.00pm](#) by [Safeguarding Network](#) will look at the implications of the new guidance, how this integrates with the RSHE guidance, KCSiE, and looks at the lessons learnt from other sectors

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](#)