

Safeguarding Bulletin – 4 February 2026

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Safeguarding bulletin



Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

Safeguarding
in Schools

Less than a week until Safer Internet Day 2026

Safer Internet Day 2026, coordinated by the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#), will take place on 10 February with the theme **“Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.”** This year’s campaign highlights an issue that has rapidly become a global discussion, how can we use artificial intelligence safely and responsibly? [Free Educational Resources](#) are available 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.

Safer
Internet
Day 2026 | Tuesday
10 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

Southwark training opportunities

>> Sign up to the next Safeguarding in Schools FREE webinar

This will be delivered by the Metropolitan Police Child Abuse Investigation Team on the topic of **Responding to Direct Disclosures** on Thursday 19 March 12.30pm to 1.30pm. Handling disclosures can be daunting – this is a great opportunity to explore responses, roles and responsibilities when speaking to children about abuse.

[Recordings of all previous sessions in the series are also available to watch online.](#)



Safeguarding in Schools
free webinar series

Thursday 19th March 2026
12:30 - 1:30pm
Online via Teams

Sign up via
Southwark's Education website [here](#)

Responding to Direct Disclosures
with the Met Police Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT)

This webinar will present the case study of a disclosure that escalates over time, exploring appropriate initial responses, evolving responsibilities and how schools can work in effective partnership with the Police.

This and all other sessions in the series will be recorded & available for schools to view on [Southwark's Education website](#)

For queries or feedback, please email the Safeguarding in Schools Lead: emma.geininger@southwark.gov.uk

Southwark news

>> [Latest 7 min briefing from the Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership \(SSCP\)](#)

Latest SSCP 7 min briefing on 'ACRONYMS AND COMMUNICATION' is now available.

>> [LGBT+ History Month in Southwark Libraries](#)

February is LGBT+ History Month, and there is a range of free events at Southwark libraries. From family crafts to book clubs, authors' talks, a play and a film screening – everything is free and open to all, even if you're not a library member.

Other news

>> [Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation](#)

Children are sexually abused in many different ways, and in different situations or contexts. One form of this abuse is child sexual exploitation. The definition of child sexual exploitation has changed over time and crosses over into other forms of sexual abuse. It is important that all professionals are informed with the latest and

best evidence to respond to, prevent and disrupt this form of child sexual abuse. Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation recently published by The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse ([CSA Centre](#)) brings together the latest relevant research to help professionals respond to the significant number of children and young people who need support right now.

Please note that our Safeguarding in Schools Lead delivers bespoke training on child sexual exploitation and other forms of exploitation / extra familial harm. Further information is available via [safeguarding training for schools and educational settings](#) and in [our flyer on training offer](#).

>> Free “Embrace” support services for children and families affected by serious crime

The Embrace Child Victims of Crime is a national children’s charity that focuses all its time on helping children, young people and families recover from the effects of crime. They have a range of free emotional support, counselling, and advocacy services available across the UK for children and their families affected by domestic abuse and other serious crimes.

National Support

- National funding is available to provide remote emotional support and counselling for children affected by serious crimes, including sexual and domestic abuse.
- Support is delivered online, so children need to be aged 11+ to access.
- Referrals can be submitted by professionals, police, parents and schools.
- Young people should not already be currently supported by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Including on the waiting list to be assessed or access CAMH support.
- Because the support is online and they are a short-term intervention, they must ensure the safety of the young person so unable to support young people who are presenting with suicidal ideation and / or high risk of self-harm.

Criteria for Counselling – Children Affected by Domestic Abuse – To be eligible, children must:

- Be aged 11 to 18.
- Not be in regular, unsupervised contact with the perpetrator of the abuse.

“You Are Enough™” (National)

- Peer support for parents and carers of children affected by sexual abuse, including online harm.
- Provides a safe, professionally facilitated online group in an empathetic environment.

- Referrals can be made by professionals or via self-referral.
- More information: [You Are Enough | Protect Children](#).

Additional Support for Families

- **Merlin's Magic Wand Theme Park Tickets** – free tickets available for families where a child has been the victim of, or witnessed, a crime. (*Transport is not provided.*)
- **COMING SOON: Embrace Toybank** – an innovative initiative providing toys to children, ensuring access to joy, learning, and the developmental benefits of play.

[Link to refer a child to Embrace](#)

Other training opportunities

>> Free Webinar - Strengthening Cybersecurity in Schools - Thursday 26 February, 2.00pm to 3.00pm

This one-hour session by [The South West Grid for Learning \(SWGfL\)](#) is designed specifically for education professionals who want to move beyond awareness and take meaningful, achievable steps towards building cyber resilience across their setting., The webinar will help Designated Safeguarding Leads, senior leaders, IT leads, governors and classroom practitioners understand what schools are facing right now and what can be done about it.

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](#)