

## Safeguarding in Schools Bulletin – 4 March 2026

*Southwark Council sent this bulletin at 04-03-2026 03:45 PM GMT*

A green rectangular banner with the text "Safeguarding bulletin" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The word "Safeguarding" is on the top line and "bulletin" is on the bottom line.The word "Hello" written in a green, cursive script font.

**from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team**

A green circular logo with the text "Safeguarding in Schools" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in two lines: "Safeguarding" on the top line and "in Schools" on the bottom line.

You may be aware of recent references on social media to “Reds vs Blues” or “school wars” encouraging children to engage rivalry. Information was shared with schools last week, including a model letter that could be sent to parents / carers. There is no further intelligence suggesting organised activity or planned events, but a Police plan remains in place, along with ongoing support from Southwark’s Young Advisors and other services across the borough.

If you become aware of any relevant information or wish to discuss further, please contact the Police, MASH and/or Safeguarding in Schools Lead ([emma.geiringer@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:emma.geiringer@southwark.gov.uk)) as appropriate.

We appreciate all of your efforts to work collaboratively to safeguard our communities.

## Southwark training opportunities

### >> Training available from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

Looking for bespoke, topic-based training tailored to the needs of your staff and demographics of your setting? Look no further! The Safeguarding in Schools Lead is available to deliver training on a range of safeguarding issues, along with a number of other services from across Southwark. More information is available on our training page, or you can contact Emma ([emma.geiringer@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:emma.geiringer@southwark.gov.uk)) to discuss the specific needs of your setting.

### >> **Spaces still available on upcoming DSL/DDSL training courses**

Some places are still available on the following training courses for existing DSL/DDSLs, taking place Southwark Council's Tooley Street office.

- **Half-day update training: Tuesday 17 March 2026, 9.00am to 12.30pm.** For DSLs and DDSLs due their refresher training (every 2 years) – an update on national and local changes in safeguarding children legislation, policies and procedures. £50 for LA maintained schools; £80 for non-maintained schools.
- **One-day refresher training: Friday 20 March 2026, 9.30am to 4.00pm.** For DSLs and DDSLs due their refresher training (every 2 years) – an in-depth learning course with opportunity to reflect on your practice since your induction training. £75 for LA maintained schools; £100 for non-maintained schools

Please contact the **Emma Geiringer - Safeguarding in Schools Lead** ([emma.geiringer@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:emma.geiringer@southwark.gov.uk), 020 7525 5377 / 07860 354934) if you or anyone in your school or setting would like to attend or to discuss any other training needs.

### >> 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.](#)

## Other news

### >> [DfE publishes additional mobile phone guidance for schools](#)

The Department for Education has published updated guidance around mobile phone use with the expectation that schools operate as mobile phone-free environments by default. Although this is non-statutory, the DfE advises schools begin implementing this from 1 April 2026.

The previous toolkit has been replaced with a new document focused on helping schools communicate their mobile phone policy clearly to parents. Additional case studies have also been published, providing practical examples of how schools have implemented and embedded phone-free approaches.

### >> [Check Your Internet Filtering Is Working Effectively](#)

Schools in England have a statutory duty to ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place and are regularly reviewed for effectiveness. TestFiltering.com is a purpose-built tool designed specifically for schools to be able to test if the internet filtering systems are correctly configured so that access to illegal and / or inappropriate content is being effectively restricted, or to identify gaps where action may be needed.

### >> [Supporting children and families in kinship care](#)

The charity '[Kinship](#)' is now extending its support to informal kinship carers without a legal order, in addition to those with a legal order like Special Guardians. Please display their flyer in school to raise awareness to all carers of the support available from Kinship.

### >> [New resource for teenagers impacted by the arrest of an adult they know](#)

Each month, the police arrest hundreds of people in the UK for online child sexual offences. This can be impactful and confusing for their family and network. Many young people struggle to make sense of a situation they didn't cause, but that deeply affects them. The Lucy Faithful Foundation have developed a new resource to support young people to navigate this difficult experience, called 'What About Us?'. This includes a workbook for young people and a guide for how parents / carers can approach these sensitive conversations and provide support.

**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](#)