

Safeguarding bulletin



Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

Safeguarding
in Schools

Southwark training opportunities

>> [Final few spaces available on upcoming DSL/DDSL refresher training courses](#)

Some places are still available on the following training courses for existing DSL/DDSLs due refresher training (every 2 years) - taking place Southwark Council's Tooley Street office:

- **Half-day update training: Tuesday 17 March 2026, 9.00am to 12.30pm.** 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.** 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 **Emma Geiringer - Safeguarding in Schools**

Lead (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.

[Full day refresher training will be available during the summer term.](#)

>> [Don't miss out on 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

>> Understanding and Responding to Neglect

The [NSPCC have published a statistics briefing about neglect](#), highlighting the challenges of identifying this form of harm but recognising that research shows around 1 in 10 children in the UK have been neglected.

We know that Neglect is a prevalent issue in Southwark, which is why the Neglect Strategy was launched last year, along with a practical toolkit for partners to be able to effectively identify and respond to children / families experiencing neglect. [The strategy, toolkit and accompanying guidance can be found on the Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership website.](#)

If you would like more support understanding neglect, utilising the toolkit and implementing support, [Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Lead is available to deliver bespoke training on the topic](#) – contact Emma: emma.geiringer@southwark.gov.uk / 020 7525 5377 / 07860 354934.

>> [Updated 'Honour'-Based abuse, Forced Marriage, and harmful practices' CPS Guidance](#)

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has updated its prosecution guidance on 'honour'-based abuse, forced marriage and harmful practices. For the first time, it explicitly recognises spiritual abuse and immigration-related abuse. The

guidance emphasises the importance of multi-agency safeguarding responses, victim support and evidence-led prosecutions.

[The London Safeguarding Children Procedures also provides guidance on responding to safeguarding concerns relating to Spiritual, Cultural and Religious Beliefs.](#)

>> [Filtering Support for DSLs from LGfL](#)

According to KCSIE, it is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and not the IT Team that holds the lead responsibility for online safety, including overseeing filtering and monitoring. Technical colleagues are instrumental, but a safeguarding approach is vital to help protect pupils from harm. [London Grid for Learning \(LGfL\)](#) has updated their [45-minute self-service training](#) to help understand the DSL's key role in helping to keep your school compliant and your pupils safe.

>> [Stronger protections for children with allergies in school](#)

Life-saving allergy pens must be stocked by schools for the first time under new plans announced recently by the Department for Education (DfE).

>> [Consultation to support children growing up in the online world](#)

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology is consulting on further measures to prepare children for the future in an age of rapid technological change. This includes potential age restrictions on social media and other services such as gaming sites and AI chatbots, restrictions on addictive design features and risky functionalities, and better support for parents and families. This consultation closes on 26 May 2026.

>> [How Ofsted considers complaints about schools](#)

Leaders, local authorities, parents and carers frequently ask about how Ofsted deals with complaints about a school. Ofsted has published a new post on their education blog explaining the processes that they follow when deciding whether to inspect a school.

We recommend you ensure your schools' complaints procedure is available and accessible to parents and carers, so they know how to raise any concerns.

>> [Need help with after school childcare?](#)

Wraparound childcare is before and after school childcare for primary school aged children in England. All parents in England with primary school aged children are eligible to access wraparound childcare. Parents can use either Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare to help pay for places. Parents might also be able to get help with initial upfront childcare costs.

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](#)