



Safeguarding Bulletin – 29 April 2026

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Safeguarding bulletin



Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

Safeguarding
in Schools

A banner for "Learningfest" featuring a blue background on the right and a photograph of two smiling children on the left. The text "Learningfest" is in white, with "fest" underlined. Below it, the words "Learn", "Improve", "Share", and "Celebrate" are listed vertically. A white arrow points from the list towards the right. At the bottom right, the text "Children and Families" is followed by a circular logo with colorful swirls.

Learningfest

Learn
Improve
Share
Celebrate

Children and Families 

>> [Learningfest, May 2026 workshops - Domestic abuse: Promoting safe and healthy relationships – Tuesday 12 May to Friday 15 May](#)

Southwark Children's Services is curating a week-long series of workshops exploring the topic of Domestic abuse: Promoting safe and healthy relationships. From national strategy and Southwark's local approach to focussed workshops on working with migrant women, fathers, children and young people, tackling coercive control, stalking and harmful practices.

Southwark training opportunities

>> **Next Safeguarding in Schools Webinar**

The next **Safeguarding in Schools Webinar** will be delivered by CAMHS on Wednesday 10 June 2026 12.30pm to 1.30pm on the topic of **Safeguarding Neurodivergent Children and Young People**.

Masking, shutdowns and meltdowns are common experiences in neurodivergent young people and are frequently misunderstood or confusing to the adults around them. This webinar will explore the invisible stressors that can lead to these bodily responses and shares tools to provide students with the neuroaffirming support they need to prevent burnout and thrive at school and beyond.

Staff from all Southwark schools are welcome to attend. Please [sign up to attend the next Safeguarding in Schools Webinar](#).

Other news

>> [IWF's Annual Data & Insights Report 2025 exposes the trends shaping online child sexual abuse](#)

New data released recently in a report by [Internet Watch Foundation \(IWF\)](#) highlights the key findings and themes shaping the online child sexual abuse landscape, including the rapid rise of AI-generated abuse material, the disproportionate targeting of girls and the growing victimisation of older teenagers. In 2025, IWF analysts assessed 451,210 reports. This equates to one report every 70 seconds. Of these, 311,610 reports were confirmed to contain, advertise or link to child sexual abuse material. This is the equivalent of one report every 101 seconds.

[Discover more by signing up to join IWF online on Thursday 7 May from 4.00 pm to 5.20pm for the exclusive launch of the 2025 Annual Data & Insights Report](#) and be the first to see definitive 2025 data on the latest analysis and trends in online child sexual abuse, understand more about how systemic weaknesses on the internet are exploited, creating a thriving online child sexual abuse “marketplace” and hear the real-life impact of online child sexual abuse

>> [**NEW: Whole school approach to child sexual abuse**](#)

[The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse \(CSA Centre\)](#) published a new, step-by-step guide for early years provisions, schools, colleges and other education settings to help improve their response to child sexual abuse. Education professionals are in a unique position to identify and respond to child sexual abuse, and evidence shows that when education settings are well equipped to respond, the effect can be transformative. To help them, CSA Centre has developed a free, accessible Whole School Approach framework. It provides education settings with useful prompts and templates to assess their response to child sexual abuse, identify where policies, recording practices, information sharing, and culture are working well, and where gaps may exist.

[**Free webinar: Introducing the Whole School Approach: 29 April 3.30pm to 4.30pm.**](#) CSA Centre is hosting a free online webinar for education professionals, discussing why the guide was created, and how you can use it in your education setting to strengthen responses to child sexual abuse.

>> [**Mental Health Awareness Week 2026 – 11 to 17 May**](#)

The Mental Health Awareness Week is led by the [Mental Health Foundation](#) and **Action** is chosen as this year's theme because, while awareness is vital, real change comes when action is taken too.

>> [**New free resource - Words Matter: A practical guide for communicating with children in any classroom so they flourish**](#)

The [Words Matter charity](#) has launched a new free, evidence-based resource to support classroom communication and strengthen students’ sense of belonging, helping children feel valued, safe, and ready to learn. It is designed to support teachers in choosing language that builds trust, motivation, and a strong sense of belonging among students, especially during challenging moments. The guidance and examples in this resource have been developed to help teachers

build children's confidence, self-belief and resilience, while reducing shame, embarrassment, defensiveness, and anxiety, that can act as barriers to learning.

Other training opportunities

>> [Progress through prevention conference – building on what works in tackling violence](#), Tuesday 23 June

A one-day conference highlighting how London is delivering violence prevention programmes and offering professionals practical tips and advice on what early help approaches work best in supporting young people. There will be contributions from senior leaders in violence prevention, input from young people and practitioners with lived experience, and discussion on how to overcome some of the practical challenges of delivering services in this space. This conference is organised by [Children & Young People Now](#) in partnership with the [London's Violence Reduction Unit](#) and designed for anyone working with young people affected by or at risk of violence, school leaders and inclusion specialists and safeguarding leads, among others.

>> [Free online Belonging Matters dissemination learning session](#) – 7 May, 10.00am to 12.00pm

Free dissemination session by [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) exploring how schools and settings can strengthen belonging and inclusion. Hear directly from participating schools and discover practical approaches you can apply in your own setting.

Organisations referenced in this bulletin are not necessarily commissioned or endorsed by Southwark council. Please apply your own due diligence.

If you have any colleagues who would like to receive this weekly safeguarding bulletin, they can [sign up to Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools bulletin](#).

Find out more about support from [Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team](#).

For safeguarding resources and training information visit [Safeguarding in Education](#).