

Safeguarding Bulletin – 6 May 2026

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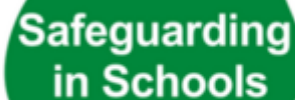
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Safeguarding bulletin



Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

A green circular logo with the text "Safeguarding in Schools" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

>> Southwark Children's Services have moved offices and are no longer based at Sumner House from 11 May 2026

Please note that all face-to-face Child Protection Conferences (including all Initial CPCs and some Review CPCs) will now be held at the new office building at Queens Road (QR3), **1 Lugard Road, London SE15 2HG from 11 May 2026**. There is no parking but there are seven bus services which pass through Queens Road (171, 136, 436, 36, 177, P13 and P12). The building is directly across the road from Queens Road overground rail station. Southern Railway trains from Queens Road go to London Bridge, West Croydon and Victoria and Beckenham junction via Crystal Palace.

Southwark training opportunities

>> Southwark Virtual School Conference for Designated Teachers for Looked after Children – 3 June 12.30pm to 4.30pm, Canada Water Library

Southwark Virtual School is delivering an in person **Designated Teachers Conference** on **3 June 12.30pm to 4.30pm** at **Canada Water Library**. This will be the final Designated Teacher (DT) meeting of the academic year. While the full programme is still being finalised, the session will focus on **end-of-year arrangements for children looked after** and **supporting effective transition planning**, particularly looking ahead to September.

The aim of the session is to keep the needs and lived experiences of children in care at the centre of practice. **SpeakerBox**, Southwark's Children in Care Council will join and share their experiences of education. In addition, representatives from **Coram Voice's Bright Spots Programme** will present findings from their surveys of children in care and care leavers, highlighting barriers they face and what helps them feel included and supported in school.

Southwark Virtual School hopes that hearing directly from children and young people will support designated teachers to reflect on inclusion within school policies and daily practice. The session will also include:

- support with **transitions**, including key end-of-year considerations
- input on **ARC and trauma-informed practice**
- time for **discussion and sharing**, including how schools can best be supported by the Virtual School in preparation of the new academic year.

Southwark Virtual School is keen to hear the voice of schools as well as children and young people, and to use this session to shape future support. Please save the date in your calendar. A detailed programme will be shared shortly. A light lunch will be provided on the day.

Online safety

>> [The 'Switched on to privacy' campaign by the Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\) for parents and carers](#)

[The Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#) has launched the 'Switched on to privacy' campaign. The campaign is designed to help parents and carers have conversations with their children about online privacy. You may want to share it with your parents/carers.

>> [New resource: Understanding and challenging behaviours associated with the manosphere](#)

As online spaces continue to shape the attitudes, behaviours and identities of young people, [The South West Grid for Learning \(SWGfL\)](#) has launched a new resource designed to support schools in understanding and responding to behaviours associated with the manosphere. The manosphere refers to a broad collection of online communities focused on men's issues, often spanning content

from self-improvement through to more harmful ideologies. While some of this content may appear benign, misogynistic, homophobic and racist views can proliferate within these spaces, particularly in more insular communities.

>> [What is doomscrolling? – a guide for professionals, parents and carers](#)

With so many people consuming large amounts of online content, the term “doomscrolling” has become so common. Doomscrolling is when an individual spends an excessive amount of time online consuming social media, news, videos or short form content. The act is when an individual might be continuously ‘scrolling’ to experience the next piece of content without necessarily knowing where it is going to take them. [SWGfL](#) has published some useful information on doomscrolling, which includes advice for professionals working with children as well as advice for parents and carers.

Other news

>> [**Open consultation: Proposal on support for pupils with medical conditions at school**](#)

The Department for Education is consulting on proposed updates to the statutory guidance on [supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#). The consultation seeks views on proposals to strengthen the way children and young people with medical conditions and allergy are supported and kept safe. This consultation closes 15 May 2026.

>> **Children’s Wellbeing and School Act receives Royal Assent**

The [Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act](#) has now passed into law after a lengthy journey through Parliament. The Act brings together reforms across safeguarding, schools, children’s social care, and online safety, to make it easier to identify risks and prevent children from falling through the cracks. To understand the impact of the Act on schools the [National Governance Association \(NGA\) have written a detailed guide](#) which is well worth reading. In summary, the Act:

- aligns state schools more closely, particularly on staff pay and conditions and removes the ability to opt out of the national curriculum once the revised version is introduced in 2028
- establishes the legal foundation for trust inspections, alongside new intervention powers where standards are not met
- introduces a new admissions framework
- requires schools to become phone-free environments
- aims to reduce inequality with free breakfast clubs in every primary school, a cap on the number of branded uniform items and expanded eligibility for free school meals to all households in receipt of Universal Credit

- provides the legal framework for new statutory guidance (in development) to support pupils with medical needs and allergies
- introduces a compulsory register for children not in school.

[Southwark Schools Bulletin](#) previously contained information about the **Families First children's social care reforms**, the national programme designed to ensure children and families receive the right help at the right time through stronger early intervention, joined-up support, and clearer safeguarding pathways. This will mean merging Southwark's Family Early Help and statutory social work services into a single Family Help service.

The Act puts into law the introduction of statutory multi-agency child protection teams and of a single unique identifier for children across services needed for the successful implementation of the reforms. Those safeguarding changes in the Act relevant to schools are outlined in the [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) guidance.

We await further guidance on how and when the different elements will be implemented.

>> [Crime and Policing Act 2026](#)

The Crime and Policing Bill received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026 and has now become law. Measures introduced in the new Act to protect children and young people include: the introduction of a new duty to report child sexual abuse; a standalone offence of child criminal exploitation; and criminalising the making, adapting, supplying or offering to supply AI 'nudification tools'. Different parts of the Act apply to different parts of the UK.

>> [The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's Annual report 2024 to 2025](#)

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published its annual report on serious child safeguarding incidents in England. Drawing on evidence from rapid reviews and the Panel's national programme of work, the report aims to provide a system wide picture of where children are most at risk, the complex circumstances many families face, and the improvements needed to strengthen safeguarding practice. The report examines learning from serious incidents notified to the Panel between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 involving 360 children who died or were seriously harmed due to abuse or neglect. Of the 274 rapid reviews considered, 47% involved the death of a child, 60% included neglect as a factor and 51% included domestic abuse. Key themes identified include: babies under one were most affected; many children faced complex, overlapping challenges; and strong multi agency working is critical to reducing risk.

>> [Updates to DfE's 'Data protection in schools 2026' manual](#)

Updates have been made to [DfE's data protection in schools manual](#) about the use of photographs and CCTV in schools.

>> [Updated free Child Safety Parents' Pack for 2026](#)

The [Child Accident Prevention Trust](#) recently updated the Child Safety Parents' Pack that you may want to share with your parents/carers. The Pack contains bite-sized facts and safety tips on the biggest accident risks to children, allowing parents/carers to make simple changes that can fit into busy routines.

Other training opportunities

>> [Free Strengthening Cybersecurity in Schools Webinar – Thursday 21 May, 2.00pm to 3.00pm](#)

Cyberattacks are evolving in both scale and sophistication and schools must balance the protection of their digital infrastructure with the responsibility of equipping pupils and staff with the knowledge and confidence to stay safe online. This one-hour session hosted by [The South West Grid for Learning \(SWGfL\)](#) is aimed at supporting schools with many of the topics and queries that were raised at the last event in February 2026.

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

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

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