

Safeguarding Bulletin – 20 May 2026

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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, sans-serif font.

Safeguarding
in Schools

>> DSL/DDSL safeguarding training available this term

We have the following DSL/DDSL safeguarding training courses this term, which is delivered by our Safeguarding in Schools team, with input from other Southwark teams and services. The content is bespoke to the needs of Southwark settings, focusing on local procedures and contexts. There is now a nominal charge for our courses.

- **One-day refresher training: Monday 22 June 2026, 9.30am to 4.30pm at Southwark Council's Tooley Street office.** This course is for the DSLs and DDSLs with existing safeguarding role in school/setting who last had training two years ago. The fee for this course is £75 for LA maintained schools; £100 for non- maintained schools.
- **Two-day induction training: 29 & 30 June 2026, 9.30am to 4.30pm at Southwark Council's Tooley Street office.** This course is for

those new to the DSL/DDSL role and/or new to a Southwark school/setting. The fee for this course is £100 for LA maintained schools; £150 for non-maintained schools.

If anyone in your school/setting would like to attend these courses, please contact Apo Çağırıcı, Schools Safeguarding Coordinator (apo.cagirici@southwark.gov.uk, 020 7525 2715) or Emma Geiringer, Safeguarding in Schools Lead (emma.geiringer@southwark.gov.uk, 07860354934) for further information and discussion.

[Take a look at our website to find out more about our training offer.](#)

Southwark training opportunities

>> Southwark Virtual School's Designated Teachers for Looked after Children Conference – 3 June 2026

The agenda for Southwark Virtual School's summer **Designated Teacher Conference on 3 June 2026** is now confirmed. This conference focuses on Inclusion and the voice of the child so designated teachers for looked after children are invited to bring other senior staff who would benefit. Please RSVP by completing [the short form to confirm your attendance at conference on 3 June](#), as there are 40 places.

Southwark Virtual School Designated Teacher Conference – 3 June 2026, 12.30pm to 5.00pm, Canada Water Library.

Agenda

12.30 to 13.00 Arrival and light lunch

13.00 to 13.30 Welcome: Ofsted update and Virtual School highlights - Usha Singh

13.30 to 14.00 Speakerbox - Introduction to Southwark Children in Care Council - Ekta Gupta and Young People

14.00 to 14.15 ARC and Trauma-Informed Schools Update - Kate Bainbridge

14.15 to 14.45 End of Year Transition Support for children looked after - Gemma Simcock, Alice Beresford and Jessica Penketh

14.45 to 15.00 BREAK

15.00 to 16.00 Bright Spots Survey Feedback from Listening to the Voices of Southwark's Children in Care - Poppy Laurens and Josie Griffin

16.00 Q&A and Feedback

This will provide an important opportunity to hear the voice and lived experience of children in care. **SpeakerBox** - Southwark's Children in Care Council will share their experiences of education. Also, 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 hope that hearing directly from children and young people will support schools to reflect on inclusion within school policies and daily practice.

Southwark news

>> Foster Care Fortnight (11 to 24 May): changing lives, one home at a time

Southwark's fostering team are joining others across the UK to celebrate Foster Care Fortnight – a chance to thank foster carers for everything they do and raise awareness of the life-changing difference fostering can make. This year's theme, *This is Fostering*, shines a light on the everyday realities of fostering and the profound impact foster carers have on children and young people's lives. It celebrates the compassion, resilience, commitment and care foster carers show every day – often in incredibly challenging circumstances. The following events are taking place this week:

- Foster carer thank you celebration (in-person), Thursday 21 May 12.00pm to 3.00pm
- Foster Care Fortnight community walk, Saturday 23 May 11.00am to 1.00pm
- Foster carers celebration ball, Saturday 6 June 5:30pm to 11.00pm

Online safety

>> Updated DfE Guidance: Using AI in education: support for school and college leaders

The DfE has recently updated all documents for 2026 to 2027, which are designed to help school and college leaders implement AI safely and securely. They should be used in conjunction with the other modules and training materials about [using AI in education settings](#).

>> New resources about online hate and misogyny on the 'Kids online safety' website

Together with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), the DfE has published new resources on the '[Kids online safety](#)' website to help parents and carers understand and get support dealing with online misogyny, which you may want to share with your parents and carers. This new section is designed to help families and give them more confidence in talking to their children about what they're doing and experiencing online. The updated content includes

- what misogyny is
- why parents and carers should talk to their children about misogyny
- spotting the signs of misogyny
- how parents and carers can support their sons or daughters.

>> [A Safeguarding First Approach to Gen-AI Adoption in Schools](#)

Many children and school staff are already using Gen-AI, but the safeguarding, data, cybersecurity and intellectual property risks associated with this can be significant. How is your school ensuring there is a robust safeguarding-first approach to using Gen-AI? The free framework and webinar by the [London Grid for Learning \(LGfL\)](#) is designed to help understand the risks associated with Gen-AI and how schools can mitigate these and implement a robust safeguarding-led approach to using Gen-AI.

Other news

>> [New resources to help schools on Child Criminal Exploitation \(CCE\)](#)

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is a form of abuse that occurs where an individual or group takes **advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive** a child into taking part in criminal activity (e.g. carrying drugs or weapons, fraud, robberies or involvement in cannabis production). These new resources produced by the [London Grid for Learning \(LGfL\)](#) are designed to help schools better recognise, respond to, and prevent this complex form of abuse.

>> [Updated guidance: Supporting immunisation programmes for children and young people](#)

The [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\)](#) has updated its guidance on supporting immunisation programmes for children and young people. **The guidance includes the role of education and childcare settings in supporting vaccinations and further information on school-age vaccinations.**

>> Important safety warning: urgent safe removal and disposal of craft products containing asbestos

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) published guidance for consumers and businesses on consumer products found to contain asbestos. The OPSS is working with local Trading Standards and the UK toy industry to ensure businesses act immediately to remove products and dispose of them appropriately. **All early years, school, and college settings are expected review the guidance and follow the steps to safely dispose of the products listed on the OPSS Product Safety Alerts, Reports and Recalls page.**

Other training opportunities

>> Free online Safeguarding Children from Criminal Exploitation training – 06/07/2026, 1.00pm to 3.30pm

Children as young as seven are exploited in England, which make this an issue for all schools to understand and effectively respond to. The [London Grid for Learning \(LGfL\)](#) has been working with Unique Talent, who co-deliver their Safeguarding Children from Criminal Exploitation training, to offer insights into their own unique lived experiences of being groomed and exploited. This interactive session, suitable for DSLs and Senior Leaders, provides a detailed exploration of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). You will learn from trainers with lived experience of gangs and serious youth violence and be equipped with practical ideas and effective strategies to identify risk, support young people and work effectively with parents and carers, as part of a whole school approach to safeguarding.

LGfL has also published new [CCE Page](#), which includes a 2-part podcast with Unique Talent hosted on [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#) & [Apple Podcasts](#), discussing CCE and how schools can better understand, recognise, intervene and prevent this harm, as well as [shorter clips](#), ideal for staff CPD.

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](#).

