

## Safeguarding Bulletin – 3 June 2026

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A green rectangular banner with the text "Safeguarding bulletin" in white, bold, sans-serif font.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.

### >> Referrals to Southwark Children's Services

Please note the following issues that have been raised by Southwark MASH regarding referrals by all agencies:

**Quality of Referrals:** There has been an increase in referrals to MASH where key demographics such as **dates of birth, family names** and **telephone numbers** are omitted. This impacts MASH's ability to respond to referrals within their confining timescales. Referrers are asked to provide all relevant information to support MASH to identify the child and family and in so doing to enable timely responses at the Front Door. It is appreciated that in some instances, there is a genuine lack of knowledge and safeguarding concerns may abode, which will necessitate a referral. In cases where there are inadequate identification details, and the concern does not require a protection type response, referrer may receive correspondence from the Safeguarding Manager asking to re-refer once the forms are adequately completed and no further action may be taken by MASH.

**Use of the Appropriate Referral Pathway:** An increase has also been observed in emails and old Multi Agency Referral Form referrals being received into the MASH. All agencies are reminded of the appropriate pathway for referrals in to Southwark

MASH by completing the **online Southwark Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Referral Form** for referrals requiring Protection or Support and for Requests for Information.

**Reminder of screening timescales:** MASH have limited timescales to process referrals. These are determined by the threshold RAG rating applied to the referral. MASH will share the RAG rating applied within the information request to guide your timely responses. For Red referrals, the standard response time is within 2 hours; for Amber it's within 4 hours. Screening is not usually pursued for referrals rated Green. However, response times are generally within 24 hours. The MASH social worker should further inform you of the deadline when requesting information so you can be aware and work to this or let them know if there are going to be any challenges with meeting this.

## Southwark training opportunities

### >> **Last chance to sign up for the Safeguarding in Schools webinar on 10 June**

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](#).

## Southwark news

### >> **Discover school routes with Southwark's active travel maps**

Walk to School Week 2026 took place from 18 May to 22 May, encouraging families to choose healthier, greener ways to travel to school. Pupils and parents can walk, cycle, scoot or wheel their way to and from school using Southwark's active travel maps. The maps highlight safe, convenient routes within a 10–15-minute distance of local schools, including clearly marked cycling paths and safe crossing points.

### >> **Little Fish Theatre's free Summer Programme for Year 6 pupils**

The [Little Fish Theatre](#) is providing a 10-day summer program that caters explicitly to Year 6 pupils, providing them with a fun and engaging platform to explore various topics related to acquiring new skills, managing risks, building friendships, and adapting to changes, utilizing the creative arts, including music, dance, drama, and art, to facilitate learning and encourage active participation. This year's free multi-arts summer programme is taking place at Rye Oak Primary School, Whorlton Road SE15 3PD from Monday 27 July to Friday 7 August 2026 (Monday to Friday) 10.00am to 4.00pm. Priority will be given to children who are eligible for Free School Meals or are engaged with Southwark Family Early Help Service.

## >> [Creative Communities Creating Change \(4Cs\) programme](#)

**Creative Communities Creating Change (4Cs)** is a new Creative Health programme which has been funded for 3 years to **support young people aged 11 to 19 and parents and carers** across Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Croydon. The programme responds to the growing need for accessible, community-based mental health and wellbeing support for young people and families. Launched in April 2026, the programme is based at Raw Material's community hub in Brixton and combines **creative practice, community-based support and evidence-informed wellbeing approaches**. You may want to share the information with your young people and parents and carers.

## Online safety

### >> [Free Webinar: Findings From the 2026 Cyber Breaches Survey – Thursday 18 June, 2.00pm](#)

To help schools better understand how cyber security impacts the education sector, the [South West Grid for Learning \(SWGfL\)](#) and Secure Schools are hosting a special webinar exploring the findings from the [Cyber Breaches Survey 2026](#), bringing together experts from across government and industry to discuss what the latest data means for schools and trusts.

## Other news

### >> [Child Neglect: A Thematic Analysis by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel](#)

The [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel](#) has published a thematic analysis examining multi-agency responses to child neglect in cases of serious harm or death in England. The paper draws on a literature review, and analysis of 100 rapid reviews and 34 child safeguarding practice reviews. It explores the prevalence and impact of neglect; how definitional ambiguity delays interventions and contributes to fragmented responses; systemic barriers; the relationship between poverty and

neglect; and children's lived experiences. [Read the thematic analysis: "Why did it take so long to respond?"](#)

Please see the [Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership \(SSCP\) Neglect Strategy](#) and the [SSCP Neglect toolkit](#). The Neglect Strategy is SSCP's approach to ensuring that all children and young people in Southwark experience good enough care while they are growing up. It sets out the approach to tackle child and adolescent neglect.

Please note that our Safeguarding in Schools Lead Emma Geiringer ([emma.geiringer@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:emma.geiringer@southwark.gov.uk), 07860 354934) is available to deliver training in your school/setting on **understanding and responding to Neglect**, including using Southwark's Neglect Toolkit. [Take a look at our website to find out more about our training offer.](#)

## >> **Open consultation: Information sharing duty statutory guidance**

The DfE is seeking views on draft statutory guidance on the information sharing duty introduced in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act, including a data sharing agreement template. These are designed to set out the new information sharing duty and who it's for and help organisations and practitioners to interpret and apply the legislation in practice. The statutory guidance is intended to promote consistent implementation and support a cultural shift in how information sharing is understood and practised across sectors. The duty will apply from September 2026. It will replace the [Department for Education's existing guidance on information sharing](#). This consultation closes on 14 July 2026.

## >> **Staying safe during the hot weather – water safety advice**

While the Amber heat warning for London has now ended, water safety advice is always relevant. Tragically, there have been a number of water-related deaths in the UK during the recent heatwave. An average of 328 UK and Irish Citizens lose their life to accidental drowning EVERY YEAR and many more have non-fatal experiences, sometimes suffering life-changing injuries. [The Royal Life Saving Society UK](#) advises anyone to 'stop and think' before getting into water, and highlights the risk of cold-water shock.

## >> **Updated guidance on external speakers in schools**

The DfE has recently updated the guide to support schools to undertake proportionate due diligence when either hosting speakers at your school or taking pupils to hear a speaker at an external event or venue. Inviting external speakers to your school, attending an event or attending an external venue to hear from a particular speaker can be a great way of providing a safe space for students to engage with a variety of issues and hear and debate different perspectives. Schools have a responsibility to ensure that the speakers are suitable and that all safeguarding procedures are followed.

## >> [Talk Relationships resources for secondary education settings](#)

NSPCC Learning has published new Talk Relationships resources to help schools engage parents and carers with the sex and relationships education (SRE) being taught, supporting them to talk to their children about healthy relationships. The resources include: a schools toolkit; an editable presentation; a guide; and five factsheets on specific SRE topics and how parents and carers can address them. Talk Relationships supports all secondary education settings in the UK to confidently deliver inclusive sex and relationships education.

## >> [An introductory guide for practitioners: Sharing information to tackle child sexual abuse](#)

The [Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse \(CSA Centre\)](#) has published its new Sharing information to tackle child sexual abuse guide. It is a comprehensive guide to finding, sharing and using information from different agencies and organisations to better respond to child sexual abuse. The guide is designed for all professionals working with children in England and Wales – whether in statutory agencies or voluntary sector and community organisations – to learn how to use and share the information they hold with other professionals to effectively safeguard the children they work with from child sexual abuse.

## >> [Shining a light on organised ritual abuse](#)

The [Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse \(CSA Centre\)](#) has also published a new guest blog on its website where the contributors shine a light on **organised ritual abuse**, why disbelief about this form of harm persists, and why that must change. The contributors draw on recent research to set the scene and translate this into practice, policy, and strategy implications for professionals across all agencies.

## >> [The House of Lords Public Services Select Committee has launched a short inquiry into falling primary school rolls](#)

The inquiry will consider the causes of falling primary school rolls across England, the impact of falling school rolls on schools, children and their families, school staff and communities, how the issue is being approached and how it can be addressed. The Committee encourages anyone with expertise in or experience of the matters under consideration in its inquiry, whether from the UK or abroad, to submit written evidence.

**Other training opportunities**

## >> Upcoming free online training sessions from London Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)

Free online training sessions in June and July 2026 from LSCP that may be of interest.

## >> St Giles' free online Violence and Exploitation Learning Series

St Giles, a charity that helps people impacted by poverty, violence & exploitation and the justice system to build a positive future, is offering Violence and Exploitation Learning Series, that will help practitioners recognise early signs of exploitation; understand grooming, coercion, and control; challenge assumptions and victim-blaming and improve safeguarding and engagement. These sessions are FREE to anyone – but a must for professionals working with children, young people and families across safeguarding, education, health, youth justice, policing and community settings.

**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](#).