

Safeguarding Bulletin – 1 July 2026

Southwark Council sent this bulletin at 01-07-2026 01:02 PM BST

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**Safeguarding
bulletin**





Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

**Safeguarding
in Schools**

TOMORROW!
Schools Safeguarding Forum

 Thursday 2 July 2026

 9.00am to 12.30pm

 Southwark Council Office
160 Tooley Street SE1 2QH

*Light continental breakfast
will be available*

The next Schools Safeguarding Forum will take place tomorrow (Thursday 2 July 2026), 9.00am to 12.30pm at Southwark Council's Tooley Street Office, Room G01ABC, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH.

The agenda will include:

9.00 to 9.30: Arrival / networking / refreshments

9.30 to 10.00: Update from Southwark MASH

10.00 to 10.30 Family First Partnership reforms

10.30 to 11.00: Break

11.00 to 11.45: Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) by Bede House

11.45 to 12.30: Mental health / self-harm and suicide awareness and prevention by CAMHS

The Forum aims to keep schools/educational settings up to date with local and national changes and give access to best practice and resources. It is open to all designated and deputy designated safeguarding leads, senior leaders, chairs of governors and/or nominated lead governors for safeguarding in all types of Southwark schools and educational settings. It is also an opportunity to meet and network with other DSLs and DDSLs.

Please ensure that at least one member of your safeguarding team attends. You do not need to register or book in advance - just turn up on the day!

If you have any queries or require further information, please contact: Apo.Cagirici@southwark.gov.uk.

Southwark training opportunities

>> **DSL/DDSL training next term (Autumn Term 2026)**

Next term's safeguarding training courses for designated and deputy designated safeguarding leads (DSLs and DDSLs) that are delivered by our Safeguarding in Schools team will take place on the following dates:

- **induction training:** (two-day face-to-face training for those new to the DSL/DDSL role and/or new to a Southwark school/setting) – **Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 November 2026**
- **Refresher training:** (two dates for one-day face-to-face update training for those with existing DSL/DDSL role in school/setting who last had training two years ago) – **Wednesday 14 October 2026 and Tuesday 17 November 2026**

All courses take place 9.30am to 4.30pm at Southwark Council's Tooley Street office.

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, 07860 354934) for a chat if anyone in your school/setting would like to attend one of these courses.

Southwark news

>> [Southwark HAF Summer Programme 2026 – a creative holiday camp for Southwark](#)

The Southwark holiday activities and food (HAF) Summer Programme 2026 offers young people **aged 8–16** an exciting range of activities designed to cater to different interests, abilities, and learning styles, including music production, DJing, songwriting, creative arts, sports, games, wellbeing sessions, team challenges, and healthy eating workshops. Delivered in a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment, the programme helps young people build confidence, develop new skills, make positive friendships, and enjoy a fun, enriching, and memorable summer holiday experience. **Programme Dates: Monday 27 July to Thursday 20 August 2026** (Monday to Thursday each week), **10.30am to 3.00pm**.

Parents and carers can [book a place](#) directly. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Families are encouraged to book as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Online safety

>> [Protecting staff and pupils from AI Image Manipulation by London Grid for Learning](#)

You may find useful this new blog published by the [London Grid for Learning \(LGfL\)](#). We have recently shared the [NEW Guidance about publishing photographs of children online: protecting your setting's images from AI manipulation and abuse](#) published by the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#). While publishing images on school websites and social media channels helps to share and celebrate achievements, advancements in technology have introduced an alarming risk: the unauthorised harvesting and manipulation of school imagery. A growing concern is where photos of pupils or staff are taken from websites, social media channels and marketing materials and are then processed using artificial intelligence tools – such as freely available 'nudification' apps – to create non-consensual, synthetic sexual imagery, including AI-generated child sexual abuse material (AI CSAM).

>> [Prioritising children in responses to online child sexual abuse](#)

The Government announcement of a social media ban for children under the age of 16 serves as a timely reminder about the scale of child sexual abuse in online contexts and other online harms. Given the increasingly online aspect to all forms of child sexual abuse, it is important that professionals have the knowledge, skills and confidence to respond effectively. To help, this new blog post by The [Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse \(CSA Centre\)](#) discusses what is known about the scale and impact of child sexual abuse in online contexts, what is known about the

social media ban and restrictions for children, and what professionals can do to support children and their families.

Other news

>> **Statutory guidance: Mobile phones in schools**

The Department for Education published revised guidance on mobile phones in schools in January 2026. This guidance became statutory on 29 June 2026. Schools should begin following it from 1 September 2026.

>> **New guidance: Inclusion bases in schools**

The DfE has published a new guidance to help schools and local authorities deliver high-quality provision in inclusion bases as well as support improvements in existing bases. Inclusion bases are provisions within mainstream schools for children and young people with additional needs. They typically support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), or requiring support for behavioural or pastoral reasons, including those at risk of exclusion or low attendance.

>> **Updated Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway**

The [Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse \(CSA Centre\)](#) has relaunched their Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway in a new interactive format, making it quicker and easier for professionals to understand the steps they can take to protect and support children and families. The Response Pathway is a free online resource designed to empower and support multi-agency professionals to take steps to protect and support children and their families by responding calmly and confidently when there are concerns of sexual abuse.

>> **New toolkit: Building Safety with Friends and Peers**

[Global Centre for Contextual Safeguarding \(GCCS\)](#) has published a new toolkit that may be of interest. The term 'friendships and peer relationships' refers broadly to all types of relationships, including romantic relationships, between young people. A friendship and peer assessment can cover all of these kinds of relationships, but it will look different based on the nature of the relationships between the young people involved in the assessment. The resources in this toolkit will support you to understand what friendships and peer relationships are about in Contextual Safeguarding and key considerations before you begin; conduct a friends and peers assessment; turn your assessment into a contextual plan and measure the impact of Contextual Safeguarding responses.

>> [Helping schools take action on racist bullying](#)

Every child and young person has the right to feel safe, valued and included in their school or setting. Yet for too many children, racism continues to be a reality that impacts their wellbeing, sense of belonging and ability to thrive. The [Anti-Bullying Alliance \(ABA\)](#) has launched its new guidance, [Preventing and Responding to Racist Bullying: Practical guidance for schools and settings supporting children and young people](#).

>> [Managing problematic and harmful sexual behaviour incidents in schools](#)

The [Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#) has recently published an article aimed at helping respond safely and consistently to problematic and harmful sexual behaviour incidents at school.

Other training opportunities

>> [Free online lecture: 'From knowledge to action: what works in tackling child sexual abuse'](#) – Wednesday 18 November, 10.00am to 11.00am

This special lecture by the [Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse \(CSA Centre\)](#) will improve your understanding of the scale and nature of child sexual abuse, the challenges in practice and what we can all do about it. Although it is ideal for **social work students, lecturers, and early career social workers** to improve their understanding of how to tackle child sexual abuse, it may also be of interest to you.

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](#).