

Safeguarding Bulletin - 9 September 2026

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Safeguarding bulletin



Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

Safeguarding
in Schools

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to come together, raise awareness and remember the importance of looking out for one another. Sometimes, a simple check-in or a listening ear can make a meaningful difference to someone who may be struggling. Professional support is also available through avenues including:

 **Samaritans** (116 123); contacting the **GP**; calling 111 to speak to the **NHS helpline**; in an emergency, always call **999**.

 **The Listening Place**: free, face-to-face ongoing support ([self-refer online](#) or call 020 3906 7676).

 **NHS South London and Maudsley (SLaM)** Mental Health Crisis Line: 0800 731 2864 (option 1).

Southwark news

>> [Supporting inclusion in schools: Ordinarily Available Provision \(OAP\) in Southwark](#)
Southwark's Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) guidance for Early Years, schools and sixth form settings has been developed together with schools, health colleagues, parents and carers,

and around 150 children and young people to support inclusive practice and help settings meet the needs of all learners. OAP benefits all pupils, particularly those with SEND or who are disadvantaged, ensuring they receive the right support at the right time. The DfE defines OAP as the 'everyday support and adaptive teaching that all mainstream settings are expected to provide from their own resources for children and young people, including those with SEND, before specialist help is considered'. Southwark is now working on a post-16 version and another for parents and carers, which should launch later this academic year.

>> **Operation Encompass** - is your school opted in?

Operation Encompass is a process whereby after a domestic incident where police have attended and a child was present or related to the involved parties, police send a notification to the school so that the school can be aware and offer support if required. Schools need to be **opted in** for Operation Encompass. The process for this is simple: Your DSL / safeguarding staff need to complete the training at [Online National Key Adult Training: Operation Encompass](#) which takes just over an hour. This leads to a certificate that gets passed to police to enrol you. If you have any questions please email: PC Christopher.Odell@met.police.uk, or MD-BoroughPublicProtectionDesk@met.police.uk Southwark Police MASH MD.

>> **Training and Support from Kinship and Southwark Virtual School**

Please remind kinship carers (both formal and informal) that the charity [Kinship](#) offers a wide range of free webinars and workshops to support kinship carers, funded by the DfE as part of the national Kinship strategy.

We recommend the following, but there are others covering a wide range of topics, and they're repeated regularly so it is not a problem if the date and timing is not suitable for carers:

- 🔊 [Dealing with emotional challenges as a kinship carer 10/9/26](#)
- 📅 [Understanding trauma and attachment in children 15/9/26](#)
- 📅 [Managing challenging behaviour with children in kinship care 16/9/26](#)
- 📅 [Financial support for kinship families 23/9/26](#)

Both Carers and schools can also contact Katherine.bainbridge@southwark.gov.uk from Southwark Virtual school for advice on supporting the education of children in kinship care.

>> **Free programmes to support anti-prejudice and discrimination learning**

The Anne Frank Trust has free programmes available to schools in Southwark designed to educate about Anne Frank's life, the Holocaust and all forms of prejudice and discrimination. [Antisemitism or Islamophobia workshops](#) will run from September to March. In addition, [their core programme is available throughout the year](#) and includes a day of specific anti-prejudice workshops on a variety of topics. This is a great opportunity to support your whole school approach to promoting an inclusive, anti-discriminatory culture, now required through [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

Please contact ellie.veale@annefrank.org.uk or 07927583545 to find out more.

>> **Funded homelessness workshops and training for Southwark schools by Depaul UK**
[Depaul UK](#), a national youth homelessness charity, is offering fully funded support to secondary schools across Southwark. Their interactive, age-appropriate workshops help students understand youth homelessness, recognise risks, make safer choices and know where to seek support. They offer whole year workshops for Key Stages 3 to 5; targeted workshops for

smaller groups of students who may benefit from additional support; CPD-accredited training for school staff and safeguarding professionals on recognising and responding to youth homelessness risk. All delivery is currently free of charge for eligible Southwark schools. To discuss your school's needs or arrange a booking, contact Amelia, Thorpe, Education Officer, at education.lse@depaulcharity.org.uk.

Online safety

>> **Updated Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Policy Templates from LGfL**
London Grid for Learning (LGfL) have updated their Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Policy Templates for pupils, staff, parents, governors and visitors to align with the latest legislation and guidance, as well as national trends around online safeguarding. They are now available to download for free.

>> **IWF support for parents and carers to help keep kids safe online**

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has provided some useful resources for parents and carers help their children to understand the risks posed by AI technology, the alarming rise in "sextortion" or the importance of thinking before they share nude images of themselves or others. You may want to share the following with your parents and carers:

 [Stopping AI Child Sexual Abuse](#)

Imagery: a guide from the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and the National Crime Agency (NCA).

 [Advice for parents or carers of children who are being sexually extorted or 'sextorted'](#): to empower parents by providing essential steps and insights on how to handle the traumatic situation of child sextortion.

 [Report Remove](#): to help young people under 18 in the UK to confidentially report sexual images and videos of themselves and remove them from the internet.

 [Think Before You Share](#): confidential help with leaked nudes.

>> **Back to school with Be Internet Legends (for primary schools)**

Be Internet Legends from Google and Parent Zone is a free online safety and media literacy education programme. It offers free teaching resources and special live virtual events. Their Back to School assembly on **Tuesday 15 September** helps 7 to 11-year-olds start the new term positively. They also have other free online interactive events for UK primary schools, which can stream live or watch back at a time that suits.

Other news

>> **DBS: Regulated activity myth busting following Supervision Exemption changes**

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has published a news story addressing common misconceptions about the removal of the supervision exemption for regulated activity with children effective from 1 September 2026. The definition of regulated activity with children in England, Northern Ireland and Wales has changed, meaning that some people who were previously exempt may now qualify for an Enhanced DBS check with a Children's Barred List check.

>> **NSPCC support programmes for children and young people**

The [NSPCC's free Speak out Stay safe programme](#) now includes updated resources to support primary-aged children to recognise abuse and neglect, understand that abuse is never their fault, and know where to turn for help, including Childline, making it a powerful, practical addition to your whole-school safeguarding offer.

Schools supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities can also request the tailored **[Speak out Stay safe SEND resources](#)**.

The [NSPCC's free Talk PANTS school resources](#) now support children aged 3 to 11 with age-appropriate lessons and activities, while their [Talk Relationships resources](#) support [can strengthen secondary school relationships education](#), helping young people understand healthy behaviours, respect, safety and where to get support.

To find out more, contact the NSPCC Schools Coordinator for Southwark:

Troy.Williams@NSPCC.org.uk

>> **Toolkit to support communication about child sexual abuse and exploitation**

The Child Sexual Exploitation Taskforce has developed a toolkit to help organisations communicate consistently, accurately and compassionately about child sexual abuse and exploitation. The toolkit encourages a survivor-centred approach that recognises the courage it takes to disclose abuse and reinforces the importance of empathy, dignity and respect. It also highlights the need for clear, trauma-informed language that reflects the seriousness of these crimes while helping to challenge misconceptions and harmful narratives.

>> **'Festival of the future' architecture event for young people**

[Beyond the Box](#) (a community interest company that works to open up careers in architecture, engineering, design and the wider built environment to the next generation) is running Festival of the Future 2026: a free, two-day festival at the Royal College of Art's Battersea campus. Friday 9 October is a dedicated Schools Day for ages 11–16 (booked by teachers, a class at a time); Saturday 10 October is open to those 16+, with an evening of talks open to all.

Other training opportunities

>> **YGAM through LSCP gambling and gaming training – Tuesday 15 September 2026 10am to 12pm**

Did you know 52% of children have had some experience of gambling, and 78% of parents are concerned about their child's gaming screen time? YGAM have designed engaging, evidence-based training specifically for teachers and youth workers to understand the risks associated with gaming and gambling and gain confidence in spotting early warning signs and supporting young people - [book your place now](#).

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](#).