

Safeguarding Bulletin - 14 October 2026

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Safeguarding bulletin



Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

Safeguarding
in Schools

Your invite: Schools Safeguarding Forum

 Thursday 26 November
 9.00am to 12.30pm
 Southwark Council Office
160 Tooley Street SE1 2QH

*Light breakfast and
refreshments will be available*

Next Schools Safeguarding Forum 26 November

The next Schools Safeguarding Forum will take place on **Thursday 26 November, 9.00am to 12.30pm at Southwark Council's Tooley Street Office**. 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 put this date in your diary and ensure that at least one member of your safeguarding team attends. Look out for further information in future bulletins.

Southwark news

>> Roundtable sessions for headteachers and SENCOs to help shape Southwark's Experts at Hand offer

Southwark's provisional Local SEND Reform Plan has been agreed by the Department for Education (DfE). As part of the next phase of co-production of Southwark's Local SEND Reform Plan, headteachers and SENCOs are invited to help shape Southwark's **Experts at Hand** offer through three roundtable sessions. The upcoming workshops, each held from **10.00am to 12 noon**, will focus on:

- **20 October** – Accessing EAH support: how can we ensure support from EAH is effectively communicated to schools and easily accessible?
- **10 November** – Working protocols: how will schools and EAH work together to understand needs, deliver and review EAH support.
- **8 December** – Training and inclusion development offer: how can we strengthen support for schools to deliver OAP and Inclusion Strategies?

To attend any of these workshops, [please complete the registration form](#).

>> Help is available for new fathers and male caregivers in Southwark

Southwark's fathers' groups offer guidance, practical advice and advocacy to help navigate conversations with social workers, schools and other services. They help build confidence in the role as a dad, with support on communicating with their child, setting boundaries and understanding their development. They will also explore how to look after their own emotional wellbeing while supporting their child's. **Schools and settings may want to share this information with relevant parents/carers.**

In addition, [Southwark have a range of parenting support programmes available to families.](#)

>> Black History Month events in Southwark

There are many free and low-cost Black History Month events taking place across the borough, many of which have been funded by Southwark's Black History Month Grant.

Southwark training opportunities

>> Safeguarding in Schools webinar: Tackling Misogyny in Schools, 22 October

Staff from all schools and education settings across Southwark are invited to join this webinar on Thursday 22 October 2026, 12.30pm to 1.30pm to learn practical

tools, activities and approaches to explore male identities, social media, the manosphere and healthy relationships with young people.

You can [sign up](#) or [download this direct calendar invite](#).

The session will be recorded and available to watch online, along with all previous recordings.

Online safety

>> **More AI-generated child sexual abuse images found in the first six months of 2026 than all of 2025**

The [Internet Watch Foundation \(IWF\)](#) has published a news story on the rise in AI-generated child sexual abuse images. An analysis of IWF data shows: an increase in AI child sexual abuse imagery, with analysts finding more photorealistic images in the first half of 2026 than in the whole of 2025; girls accounted for the majority of images identified; and an increasing number of images depicted younger children.

The IWF also have [an advice document for parents about stopping AI child sexual abuse imagery](#) and [a guide for professionals on understanding and responding to AI-generated child sexual abuse material](#).

>> **'People use AI to avoid paying for school photos, but they don't realise the consequences'**

Recently, the BBC reported on concerns by photographers that parents were uploading school photographs to AI in order to remove the watermark. A photographer is warning parents about the dangers of how AI companies can use images of their children. Whilst the copyright infringement and loss of income are important, the article raises the safeguarding risk of uploading children's photographs to AI, particularly where a parent uploads a whole class photograph. The other children in the picture have been uploaded without their parents knowing.

Other news

>> **KCSIE 2026 Part 1 Translations**

[London Grid for Learning \(LGfL\)](#) has commissioned translations of KCSIE Part 1 into twelve community languages. These are now available as free, open-access documents for the benefit of all schools that may have staff with English as an additional language, who are now expected to read a more detailed and complex document than they are used to.

>> Updated 'Free school meals: guidance for schools and local authorities'

The DfE has recently updated 'Providing free school meals to families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)' and 'Application form for free school meals from families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)' with information about 'targeted' and 'expanded' income thresholds.

>> World Mental Health Day toolkit for staff in education

10 October was the World Mental Health Day. The free toolkit by the wellbeing charity for teachers and education staff [Education Support](#) brings together practical resources to help education staff stay mentally well, manage stress and find support when needed.

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](#).