

Safeguarding Bulletin - 21 October 2026

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Safeguarding bulletin



Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

Safeguarding
in Schools

LAST REMINDER FOR TOMORROW'S WEBINAR!

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

Staff from all schools and education settings across Southwark are invited to join this free 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, based on the Youth Justice Service's new gender specific group-work programme for boys.

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.

Southwark news

>> Updated Documents from Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP)

The following documents from SSCP have now been updated:

- [Parental Mental Health Protocol October 2026](#)
- [Engaging Families Practice Guidance](#)
- [Think Family Practice Guidance](#)

They and other useful documents can be accessed on [Southwark Safeguarding website](#).

>> Southwark Safeguarding Partnership Conference 2026 – Presentations and Feedback

The presentations and resources from the Southwark Safeguarding Partnership 'Think Family' Conference 2026 that took place recently are now available. If you attended the conference, your feedback is extremely important as it helps evaluate the event, understand what worked well, and shape future learning opportunities. [Please take a few minutes to complete the feedback form here](#), which takes less than 3 minutes.

>> E-bikes and e-scooters: Fire safety advice

Southwark has the second-highest rate of e-scooter and e-bike battery fires in London, with 16 incidents recorded in 2025. While they offer a greener way to travel, lithium-ion batteries can pose a serious fire risk when they are damaged, faulty or incorrectly charged. When these batteries fail, fires can ignite rapidly, spread quickly and produce toxic smoke, making them particularly dangerous in homes and communal areas. London Fire Brigade's website has some useful information and advice.

>> Free Half-Term Breakfasts at Morrisons Cafés

Families can access **free Kellogg's breakfasts at Morrisons Cafés nationwide** throughout the October half-term holiday (**12 October to 1 November 2026**) to support families during the school holidays and help ease financial pressures while term-time breakfast clubs are unavailable. The offer includes a bowl of **Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies**, dairy or non-dairy milk, and a piece of fruit. The free breakfast is available to both **children and adults**. Schools are encouraged to share this opportunity with families in their community, [including through this poster](#).

Online safety

>> 'Stranger danger' tops parents' online gaming worries

Ofcom has published a report exploring UK children's online gaming behaviours and experiences. The report brings together findings from existing Ofcom research studies. Findings include: gaming is the most popular activity among 8 to 17-year-olds in their free time, with 88% of 3 to 17-year-olds playing games; more than half of children who game online play with people they have only met online; and parental concerns include contact with strangers, inappropriate content and bullying. The report encourages parents to review privacy and safety features and have conversations with their children about gaming.

Other news

>> Child Financial Exploitation (CFE) resources for professionals

Many parents and teachers may assume their pupils have no money to be exploited. Although many children have little income, that does not stop them being drawn into schemes that use their bank accounts to move dirty money into clean ones. [Fearless, part of Crimestoppers](#) has produced this resource for professionals working with young people. [Other resources are also available](#) on topics such as Snitching and the Bystander Approach; Child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour; County Lines; Drugs and alcohol; Knife crime; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

>> Invitation to free Kinship Roadshow in Croydon

Kinship carers are invited to Croydon Roadshow organised by [Kinship](#) that will take place on Tuesday 1 December from 9.30am to 2.30pm. It will have a free day full of tailored workshops, practical support and the opportunity to connect with other kinship carers. These roadshows are open to all kinship carers - anyone who is raising the child of a family member or friend - whether they have a legal order like a special guardianship order (SGO) or not. Please share this information with any kinship carers that you may know.

>> Persistent themes in safeguarding reviews

The [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel](#) has published a range of new resources examining the ten most persistent themes, which bring together national learning from child safeguarding reviews in England where children have died or suffered serious harm from abuse or neglect. They focus on recurring challenges that continue to feature across safeguarding practice and the wider safeguarding system.

>> A guide for schools on communicating with parents about attendance

Building positive relationships with families is at the heart of improving attendance. The Department for Education has published a guide for schools on communicating with parents about attendance, offering practical tips and examples to help schools have supportive, empathetic and effective conversations with parents. The guidance encourages a partnership approach, helping families understand the importance of attendance while ensuring they feel listened to and supported when challenges arise. It is a useful resource for attendance leads, pastoral staff, SEND colleagues and senior leaders.

>> Open call for evidence – School exclusion reform

The Department for Education is seeking evidence on proposed school exclusion reforms outlined in the schools white paper, Every child achieving and thriving. This call for evidence closes on 19 November 2026.

Other training opportunities

>> Free Winter Readiness Webinar for education settings and local authority officials – Monday 9 November, 4.00pm to 5.30pm

The Department for Education (DfE) and UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) invite you to their 2026 Winter Readiness Webinar. The webinar will offer practical guidance to help education settings and local authority officials prepare for autumn and winter.

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](#).