Safeguarding Bulletin - 11 November 2026

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Safeguarding bulletin

Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

Safeguarding in Schools

>> Families First Partnership (FFP) Reforms – What education safeguarding leaders need to know

On 13 October, the DfE held a webinar for education safeguarding leaders on the Families First Partnership (FFP) social care reforms, focusing on the relevant measure in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, and the strengthened role of education and childcare in Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

You can learn more about how Southwark proposes to implement these reforms on the Education website.

Southwark news

>> Share your views on changes to Walworth Road and Camberwell Road

Southwark Council wants to know your views on possible changes to roads in and around Walworth Road and Camberwell Road to improve bus journeys, road safety, and the experience of walking, wheeling and cycling. These proposals form part of

Better Bus Southwark which is Southwark Council's partnership with Transport for London (TfL) to transform bus journeys along one of the borough's most important transport corridors. **Schools and settings in or near those areas may want to share this information with their staff members as well as their parents/carers to enable them to share their thoughts about the proposals.**

Southwark training opportunities

>> Free Roma Cultural Awareness training in Southwark 2026

Roma Support Group has been commissioned by Southwark Council to deliver a series of training sessions on Roma cultural awareness. Topics will include the history and cultural context of Roma community and best practices in engaging with the Roma community. **The session on 'Working with Roma in a safeguarding context' on 25 November, 10.30am to 12pm may be of particular interest.**

>> Positive Behaviour Support sessions for parents and carers in Southwark

Southwark's Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) Team is running a series of free sessions for parents and carers caring for a child or young person with Autism Spectrum Disorder, a learning disability or additional needs, designed to help them better understand behaviour, develop practical skills and meet other families with similar experiences.

Upcoming November sessions:

Drop-in support session: Tuesday 17 November. Access advice and guidance from the PBS Team and discuss specific concerns or challenges.

Parent and carer support group: Tuesday 24 November. Connect with other parents and carers, share experiences and access peer support

All sessions take place at the Ann Bernadt Family Hub, 29 Chandler Way, SE15 6DT, from 12.30pm to 2.00pm. No diagnosis is required to attend, and refreshments are provided. For more information, contact PBSTeam@southwark.gov.uk. **Please share this information with relevant parents and carers.**

>> Free training for parents and carers of autistic children and young people in Southwark: Puberty, Relationships and Sex

Southwark's Autism Support Team (AST) is offering a free in-person training session for parents and carers of autistic children and young people on **Tuesday 1 December, 10.00am to 4.30pm at Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street, SE1 2QH**. The session aims to support families to understand puberty, relationships, personal safety, healthy boundaries and the social and emotional changes associated with adolescence. Participants will also gain practical strategies to

support conversations about relationships, sexuality, privacy and safe behaviours. Parents/carers can register here for the training. For further information, please contact: autismsupportteam@southwark.gov.uk. **Please share this information with relevant parents and carers.**

Other news

>> Half of primary school teachers report rise in neglect referrals

The NSPCC has teamed up with NASUWT, The Teachers' Union, to highlight that teachers are witnessing a concerning increase in neglect-related child protection referrals across their schools.

You can access Southwark's Neglect strategy and Toolkit through the Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership website.

>> Academic Insights: children and young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour

HM Inspectorate of Probation has published a report examining research on children and young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) in the UK. The report focuses on understanding children's sexual behaviour; the needs of children who have displayed HSB; and responding to harmful sexual behaviours. The report calls for early intervention when concerns are identified, collaborative work with families, schools and other agencies, and proportionate educational approaches.

To learn more, watch Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools webinar about addressing harmful sexual behaviour.

>> Filling the gap? Young people's use of AI for mental health support

Barnardo's and the National Counselling and Psychotherapy Society (NCPS) have published a report about young people's use of AI for mental health support in the UK. Findings from a survey of 2,000 children aged 11- to 17-years-old show that 43% of children had used a mental health app or chatbot for emotional support or advice in the previous year; and that some children were using AI because they were unable to access professional support. Recommendations include establishing specific regulation for purpose-built AI mental health support; and protecting access to human mental health support, ensuring institutions use AI only to supplement this.

To learn more, attend Southwark's upcoming Safeguarding in Schools webinar about Supporting Children's Safe AI Use on 8th December. Sign up here or download this calendar invite.

>> Anti-Bullying Week 2026 is next week

Anti-Bullying Week 2026 organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance will take place from Monday 16 to Friday 20 November with the theme: Break the Silence. School & Other Youth Settings Resources are available to use during the week.

>> Protecting children from bullying and cyberbullying

The NSPCC guidance on protecting children from bullying and cyberbullying and how to prevent and respond to it.

>> Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) Education, Children and Violence guidance

YEF's guidance helps school, college and alternative provision (AP) leaders across England and Wales know what works to prevent children's involvement in violence.

You can also find out more about understanding and preventing serious violence in education through the Government's recently updated guidance.

>> How should schools prepare for snow, storm and flooding, and will they close?

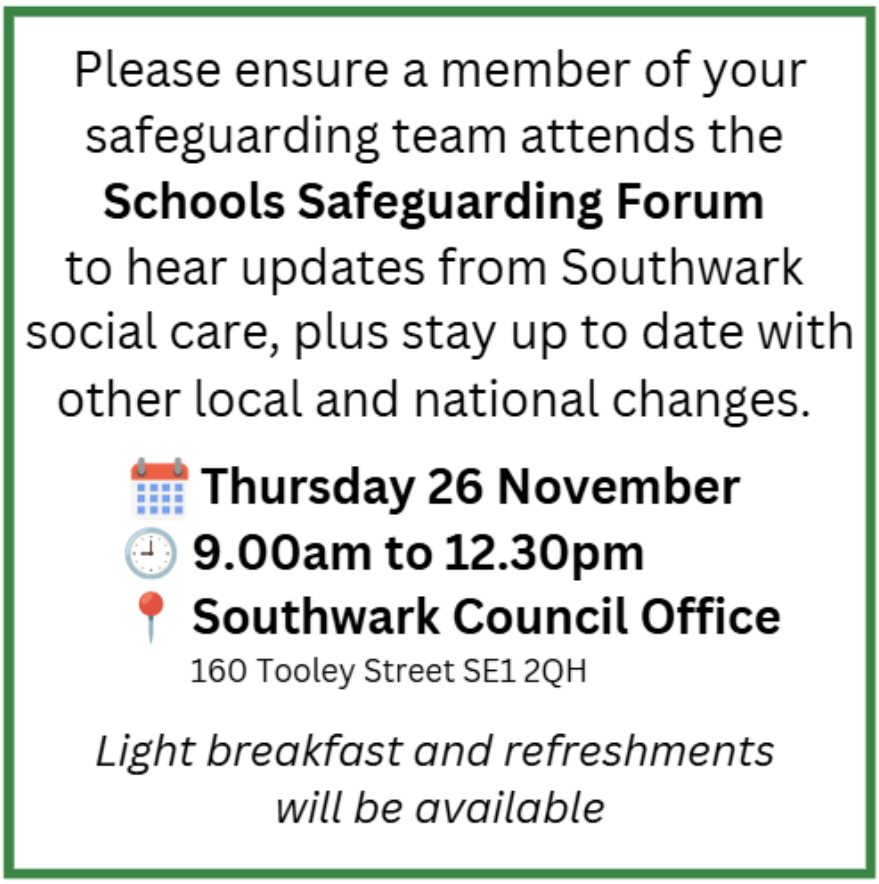
DfE has just published a new post on The Education Hub blog, which states that schools and other education settings should stay open during severe weather wherever it is safe and reasonably possible. With effective planning, most settings can adapt and keep operating safely in storms, flooding, snow, ice, high winds, heatwaves and extreme cold.

Other training opportunities

>> Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) Live: Children, Violence and Vulnerability 2026 – Wednesday 9 December, 12.00pm to 1.00 pm

A free one-hour online event bringing together people working to prevent violence and keep children safe. Hear from YEF's CEO Jeremy Miles about what they have learned so far and where their work is heading, discover what their new Children, Violence and Vulnerability 2026 reports tell us about the lives of children and young people, and hear directly from young people and experts about what needs to change. You'll also explore practical ways to turn evidence into action, including how the YEF Toolkit can help inform decisions in your area, and have the chance to put your questions directly to the YEF team.

Schools Safeguarding Forum



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Find out more about support from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team.

For safeguarding resources and training information visit Safeguarding in Education.