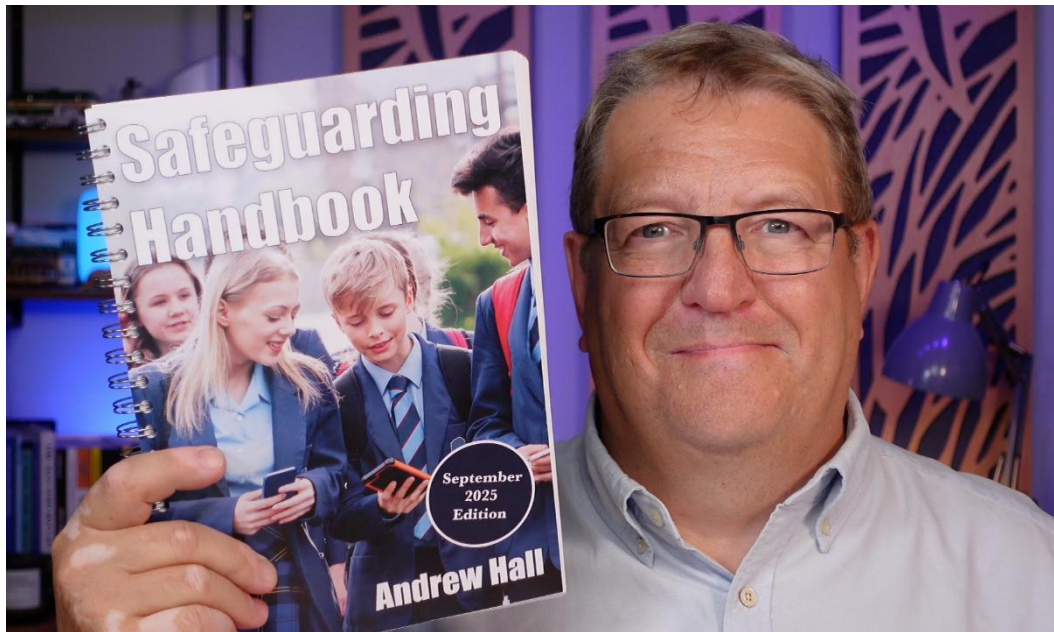


Safeguarding In Schools

with Specialist Safeguarding Consultant, **Andrew Hall**



Safeguarding Briefing - 15th September 2025



Rethinking Masculinity and Mental Health - Harmless

In male culture showing emotion, crying for example, is seen as a relative taboo. Other outpourings of emotion; anger, sadness or seriousness, is generally discouraged. However, this creates a restrictive environment for males and breeds into their relations, a prohibitive social expectation over emotional engagement. The penalties for breaking this taboo can be bullying or physical abuse within intra-male relations. Psychologically this produces harmful mental effects that can impinge on development and social relations. The Harmless Organisation has recently published an exploration of this phenomena and its related issues over on their site. If interested, please follow the link: <https://harmless.org.uk/boys-dont-cry-rethinking-masculinity-and-mental-health/>

Ketamine Use in the UK - Phoenix Futures

It is no secret that drug use in the UK remains in a state of exponential growth. Ketamine, once a party drug limited to the rave and electro scenes, has now become a leading contributor in the narcotics phenomenon. In this

vein, Phoenix Futures has conducted a survey across their residents and staff to discover more about ketamine's newfound prevalence. The survey, which will be used to develop support for those affected by the drug, unveils a bleak picture of its growing impact. If interested in delving more into the evolving ketamine issue, please follow the link below:

<https://www.phoenix-futures.org.uk/about-phoenix-futures/spotlight-on-recovery/phoenix-news-and-views/ketamine-use-in-the-uk-insights-from-phoenix-futures-residential-services/>

State-Funded School Inspection Toolkit - OFSTED

As you will be aware, Ofsted has now published toolkits explaining the way they will inspect schools from November 2025. I have only looked at the safeguarding aspects to save DSLs time I have separated out the relevant section. Safeguarding will be evaluated as 'not met' or 'met' and I have put that information onto one page (at the back) for easy printing and sharing.

Download only the Safeguarding section
here: www.safeguarding.info/ofsted25

Webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-toolkit-operating-guide-and-information>

Full Ofsted Toolkit

Download https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68b9a6b8b0a373a01819fe4b/Schools_inspection_toolkit.pdf

This guidance will replace the current school inspection handbook from 10 November 2025.

NEW Safeguarding Handbook - September 2025 - NOW AVAILABLE

The Safeguarding Handbook is now available! It's now bigger than ever before - 220 information-packed pages helping you make sense of the ever-evolving safeguarding world. Fully updated, and including new material. If you haven't bought a copy for the last few years, then this is the time to buy!

I've been writing and updating the Safeguarding Handbook for over ten years. It remains the only comprehensive guide for headteachers, DSLs and senior leaders.

The Safeguarding Handbook is practical, easy to read and will help you quickly find the answers you need.

Download peek inside version: <https://6282.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Safeguarding+Handbook+for+Schools+September+2025+v.16.1+PEEK+INSIDE.pdf>

This latest edition of the Safeguarding Handbook includes new sections on:

- Artificial Intelligence and Safeguarding
- Cumulative Harm
- Seasonal Safeguarding
- The Manosphere and Incel culture

and the following sections have been fully rewritten:

- County Lines
- Domestic Abuse
- Staff and Social Media

The hardcopy comes with a downloadable pdf version to upload to your computer, ipad or kindle for handy reference.

Go to <https://checkout.safeguardingschools.co.uk/safeguarding-handbook-2025>

Sinking Feeling Schools Resource - Papyrus

The current educational emphasis on mental health, emotional wellbeing and suicide awareness, can be daunting to staff. The issues are complex and without sufficient background knowledge the concern may be justified. The Papyrus organisation has recently developed the 'Sinking Feeling Schools Resource' to address this issue. Their new resource targets students from year six to year thirteen, and hopes to enhance PSHE in schools. It is anticipated that this resource will be of particular use upon the introduction by the UK government, of suicide prevention education. A project to be realised from September 2026. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/sinkingfeeling/>

Question of the Week

Question: What is the minimum age for marriage in England and Wales?

Answer: The legal minimum age for marriage or civil partnership in England and Wales is 18.

This change came into force on 27 February 2023 under the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022, and there are no exceptions: marriages involving anyone under 18 are void, and arranging them is a criminal offence. (Previously, 16- and 17-year-olds could marry with parental consent.)

The law also covers marriage ceremonies that are not legally binding, such as those carried out in community or traditional settings. It applies whether the ceremony takes place in England and Wales or abroad, as long as one or both of the children are habitually resident in England and Wales. This provision was introduced to prevent families from taking children overseas to bypass UK law by arranging underage marriages.

The legislation enhances the protection of vulnerable young people by criminalising all actions that lead to child marriage. A conviction carries a maximum sentence of seven years in prison.

If staff hear of a child under 18 getting married, they must treat it as a safeguarding concern and report it immediately to the DSL.

(Note: different rules apply in Scotland and Northern Ireland.)

Chatbots and Children - The Children's Society

The social media sphere has recently gained a new tool in their battle for youth engagement - the chatbot. Chat bots are not particularly new, but the sophistication of their governing algorithms is. These applications are designed to keep people engaged with artificially generated responses. Responses formulated based on the information the user puts into them. This can create a self-reinforcing effect, where the chatbot continually increases the user's convictions in the truth of their own inputs. False information, reinforcement of poor choices and self-manipulation are common issues with this emerging software. The Children's Society has recently published an article on the issue which you can find here:

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/blogs/chatbots-and-children>

Advanced Safeguarding for DSLs Course

The first live DSL course for this academic year will be on **Tuesday 16th September 2025, 10am–4pm**. [Book online here](#)

The course is also available online on-demand. Other courses are available inside [Safeguarding.Pro](#).

Are you a busy DSL with no time?

Need a place to ask questions. find support and download resources

Click here and join Safeguarding.Pro today!