

Safeguarding In Schools

with Specialist Safeguarding Consultant, **Andrew Hall**



Safeguarding Briefing - 6th January 2025

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2025

The new year has arrived. We at Success in Schools, hope you've all had a good break and are rested up ready for what 2025 brings. Stay subscribed for the latest information on courses, and upcoming releases. Welcome back!

How to Stay Protected Against AI Scams - TechRadar

The next spam call you receive may not be a real person. Scammers are increasingly using voice-enabled AI models to automate their fraudulent schemes. The human ear was not designed to tell the difference. The tricking of individuals by imitating real human callers, has become a new and highly effective methodology enabled by AI advances. Tech Radar magazine, has recently published an article on how to tackle this new front in the war against scams. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://www.techradar.com/computing/artificial-intelligence/ai-voice-clone-scams>

Coping with Suicidal Thoughts - Childline

Suicidal thoughts and feelings are unpleasant, and may leave the thinker fearful as to what led them to that point. Part of the problem when they occur is that they originate from one's own self examination. Yet it is often the case that this examination has been flawed in some way. Learning to cope with these manifestations is an important skill. Childline has published an article aimed at addressing these urges in a healthy and productive way. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/mental-health/coping-suicidal-feelings/>

Question of the Week

Thinking about staff behaviour, what is the difference between an allegation and a low level concern?

An **allegation** is where anyone working in a school or college (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child and/or
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child, and/or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children, and/or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children (this includes behaviour that may have happened outside of school or college)

A **'low-level' concern** does not mean that it is insignificant. A low-level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' - that an adult working in or on behalf of the school or college may have acted in a way that is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work .

'Low-level' concerns are behaviours that might not meet the harm threshold. Such behaviour can exist on a wide spectrum, from the inadvertent or thoughtless, or behaviour that may look to be inappropriate, but might not be in specific circumstances, through to that which is ultimately intended to enable abuse.

What should staff do when they have any concerns about the conduct of a member of staff, whether they might be above the threshold or not?

Inform staff of your organisation's policy on managing allegations and raising low level concerns, in particular remind them of the specific procedure to use and the names of people to whom reports should go.

More information about managing allegations and low level concerns can be found in Part Four of [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(DfE\)](#)

Screens in the Earliest Years - LGfL

We know that the early years is a time of phenomenal growth. Children are like sponges, soaking up stimuli around them and developing knowledge and new skills at an incredible rate. It is also a period that has a significant impact on the rest of an individual's life, with the foundations being laid for lifelong habits. Therefore, as parents and professionals we must think carefully about the input children receive in the early years, and more so than ever before, consider the role that online activity plays. The London Grid for Learning (LGfL) has an article over on their site, examining the issue. If interested, please click the link below:

<https://safeblog.lgfl.net/screensinearliestyears>

Have you ordered your copy of the Safeguarding Handbook yet?

You can order the latest copy of the Safeguarding Handbook by going to: <https://checkout.safeguardingschools.co.uk/sh2024>

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 11th February 2025

Safer Internet Day is coming up fast. Although it shouldn't be the only time in the year when we look at online safety, it does provide a national focus and an opportunity for parents to discuss with their children that challenges that they can face.

The theme for this year's Safer Internet Day is 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. Question to consider include:

- How is changing technology like generative AI going to impact the approach of scammers?
- What role can the government and internet industry take to tackle this threat?
- What changes would young people like to see to help protect themselves moving forward?

You can find more information and resources about Safer Internet Day here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025>

Advanced Safeguarding for DSLs

"I just wanted to say that I thought today's training was absolutely fantastic. By a mile it was the most engaging training I have done."

Next live online course - 15th January 2024

Wednesday 15th January 2024 [Book here](#)

The on-demand course is always available and is updated after each live session [Book Online](#)

Other available online courses include:

- Whole School Safeguarding Course for 2024/2025 (2 hours of content plus a break)

Online courses - Safeguarding.Pro

All our other courses are now available in [Safeguarding.Pro](#) These courses can be accessed for a full year.

Current courses include:

- Safeguarding Refresher
- An Introduction to Cybersecurity
- Safeguarding for Governance
- Safeguarding Induction for new staff

For further details, go to: <https://safeguarding.pro/>

Until next time, keep safe,

Andrew Hall

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Director, Success In Schools Ltd.

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