SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE



ISSUE: 2 **Thursday 19 August 2021**

We hope that you have had a well-rested summer and you are feeling refreshed for schools re-opening again. To help you prepare for the new academic year, please read the second instalment of our termly Safeguarding & Child Protection Update, which we hope you will find beneficial.

Updated Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) guidance

This guidance sets out the legal duties all staff in education must follow to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18 in schools and colleges. As expected, given the issues that have been raised recently relating to sexual abuse amongst children in schools, one key area that has been overhauled is peer-on-peer abuse. There are several other updates, as outlined below, which come into force on 1st September 2021.

All of our staff are required to read and become familiar with at least Part One of the Keeping Children Safe in Education (from 1 September 2021) guidance to work with our agencies on supply. Please click on the link below to familiarise yourself with this updated guidance.

WEB LINK: Keeping Children Safe in Education (from 1 September 2021)

Key changes since September 2020:

Paragraph number	Change
Paragraph 13	Made clear that child protection policies should also include procedures for dealing with peer-on-peer abuse.
Paragraph 18	New paragraph making clear that victims should be taken seriously, kept safe and never be made to feel like they are creating a problem for reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment.
Paragraph 31	Updated to reflect the new UK Council for Internet Security (UKCIS) guidance on the sharing of nude and semi-nude images, which has replaced their sexting advice.
Paragraph 32-35 Paragraph 36-39	New additional information added on Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), which includes information on how children can be exploited and makes clear that the experiences of girls being criminally exploited can be very different to boys. Indicators of CCE may also be different for girls. New additional information added on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), which makes clear that CSE is a form of child sexual abuse and includes information on what it may involve.

Key changes since September 2020 continued:

Paragraph number	Change
Paragraph 44	Mental health - additional information on resources.
Paragraphs 46-50	Peer-on-peer (child on child) abuse – additional information added which highlights the importance of staff recognising the signs of peer-on-peer abuse and knowing how to respond to reports.
Paragraphs 51-52	Serious violence - additional information on risk factors added.
Paragraph 63	New paragraph which highlights the importance of social care assessments considering children being harmed outside the home on contextual safeguarding, which includes measures to prevent bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying).
Paragraphs 71-72	Record keeping – additional information added which makes clear what records should include.

Peer-on-peer sexual abuse

All staff have a responsibility to be aware of systems within schools which support safeguarding. This includes being aware of the child protection and staff behaviour policies, and these should be made available to you during your site induction.

The Guidance for Safer Working Practices covers a wide range of situations to establish the safest environments to safeguard children and young people. It is important to recognise that the guidance cannot cover all eventualities and there will be occasions where professional judgement is required. That said, the guidance should assist you to monitor your own standards and practice and reduce the risk of allegations of improper or unprofessional conduct being made. Some of the content covered includes:



Making professional judgements | **Positions of trust and authority** | **Physical contact** | **One-to-one situations** | **Behaviour management** | **Educational visits** | **Sharing concerns and recording incidents**

WEB LINK: Guidance for Safer Working Practices

Child online protection

We highlighted the ever-growing risks posed to children and young people in our last Safeguarding & Child Protection Update. The digital world was not created as an environment in which childhood would take place. However, the reality is that it very much does - but without the protections that exist offline.

The 5Rights Foundation is an organisation that works on behalf of children and young people to re-shape and make universal change to the digital world, to ensure that it caters for, and protects, children and young people.

The organisation has launched an awareness campaign called '**Twisted Toys'**, which highlights some of the major online risks in a relatable and accessible format for children, young people and their parents or carers. You may find this a useful conversation starter when talking to them about online safety.

You can find more information on the Twisted Toys website:
WEB LINK: Twisted Toys website

More details about the 5Rights Foundation's work can be found on their website:
WEB LINK: 5rights Foundation website