VISION for EDUCATION .smart. teachers

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE



WALES

ISSUE: 17 **Sept 2026**



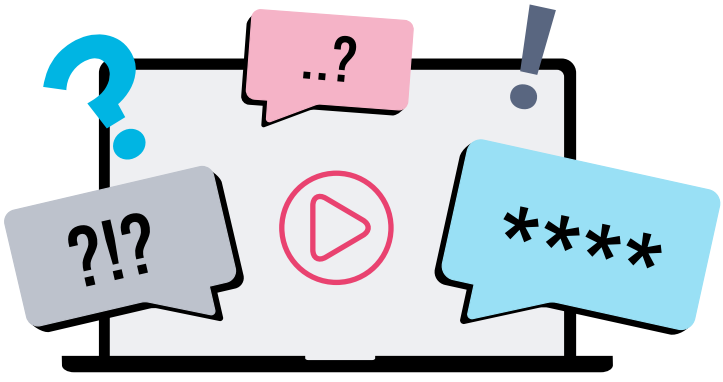
Welcome to the start of the new academic year! We hope you had an enjoyable summer break and some well-deserved rest. This Safeguarding and Child Protection Update provides essential information to keep your knowledge current and relevant to the schools or settings we place you in.

Key reminders this term

- Complete your annual safeguarding training if due.
- Complete the new sexual harassment training when released – you will receive an email with access in the new term.
- Submit any external safeguarding training certificates to the agency.

New and updated online safety resources for schools in Wales

Online safety continues to evolve as children and young people spend more time using social media, gaming platforms and AI-powered technologies. The Welsh Government regularly updates the Keeping Safe Online area on Hwb, providing schools with free guidance, lesson resources, training and practical advice to support learners, staff and families.



New and updated online safety resources for schools in Wales continued...

Recent resources place increased emphasis on:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and safe, responsible use.
- Deepfakes and AI-generated images and content.
- Online bullying and harassment.
- Healthy online relationships and digital wellbeing.
- Gaming, livestreaming and social media.
- Cyber security and protecting personal information.
- Misinformation.
- Cyber resilience.

As a member of our supply team, you should:

- Follow the online safety and acceptable use policies of each school or setting.
- Never upload confidential learner information to public AI tools.
- Remain alert to online safeguarding concerns and report them immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP).
- Model safe and responsible use of technology at all times.

For further information and the latest guidance, visit the Keeping Safe Online section of Hwb.

LINK: https://hwb.gov.wales/keeping-safe-online/

Supporting Learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Five things supply staff should know:

Every learner is unique, and many children and young people will need additional support to help them access learning. As a supply member of staff, you may not always know your learners well, but there are simple steps you can take to make a positive difference from the moment you enter the classroom.

1. Read any learner information provided

Many learners with ALN will have an Individual Development Plan (IDP) or classroom profile outlining the support and reasonable adjustments they need. If information has been shared with you, take a few minutes to read it before the lesson begins.

2. Consistency matters

Follow the strategies already in place. This might include using visual timetables, providing extra processing time, breaking instructions into smaller steps or allowing movement breaks. Even small adjustments can help learners feel safe and confident.

3. Don't assume

Two learners with the same diagnosis may have very different strengths and support needs. Focus on the individual learner rather than the label and ask for guidance if you are unsure.

4. Create an inclusive classroom

Simple approaches benefit everyone, including:

- giving clear, concise instructions;
- checking understanding regularly;
- using visual prompts where possible;
- providing positive encouragement; and
- allowing learners time to process questions before responding.

5. Ask for support

You are not expected to know every learner's needs. If you are unsure about how best to support a pupil, speak to the class teacher, teaching assistant or Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo). Asking questions helps ensure learners receive consistent support.

Further resources for practitioners are available at Hwb

LINK: https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/discovery?sort=recent&catalogs=35b98ab1-7635-4670-8830-173fb8dbb0fd&strict=1

The Duty to Prevent Sexual Harassment

Further strengthened legal duties come into force from 30 October 2026

Creating a safe, respectful workplace remains a priority for all employers. From October 2026, the legal duty on employers to prevent sexual harassment will be strengthened. Employers will be required to take all reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace, raising the standard from the current duty to take reasonable steps.

The changes also strengthen protections where harassment is carried out by third parties, such as clients, customers, contractors, parents or visitors. Employers are expected to take proactive measures to identify and reduce risks, provide appropriate training, encourage the reporting of concerns, and respond promptly and effectively where issues arise.



Staff are expected to:

- Treat colleagues, students, parents and visitors with dignity and respect.
- Refrain from any unwanted conduct of a sexual nature.
- Avoid behaviour that could create an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive working environment.
- Never engage in behaviours such as:
  - sexual jokes;
  - inappropriate comments;
  - unwanted touching;
  - sexual advances;
  - sharing sexually explicit material; or
  - spreading sexual rumours.
- Follow the standards set out in our policies, including the Staff Code of Conduct and Sexual Harassment Policy.
- Complete all required training on workplace conduct and harassment prevention, including e-learning, which will be available later this year.
- Report any incidents of sexual harassment that you experience or witness in accordance with the procedures of the school or setting and/or the agency.
- Cooperate fully with any investigation into allegations or complaints of harassment.

Everyone has the right to work in an environment that is safe, respectful and free from harassment. By working together, we can help ensure that every school and setting provides a positive experience for staff, learners and visitors alike.

Allergy safety and healthcare needs in schools in Wales

The Welsh Government is reviewing its guidance on supporting learners with healthcare needs, including allergy management in schools. The review will consider current arrangements in Wales alongside developments in England, including Benedict's Law.

Read more on Hwb:

LINK: https://hwb.gov.wales/news/articles/4d338605-c150-463a-bdb1-02095c992b65



Ymgolli: celebrating and promoting the joy of reading across Wales

Join in celebrating and promoting the joy of reading across Wales! Ymgolli will help to showcase the joy of reading and inspire our young people to see the value of reading in all its forms. Schools, families, libraries, publishers, cultural bodies, and community partners are being encouraged to make reading a part of every day.

LINK: Read about the Ymgolli campaign.



Confidentiality and data protection

Information Technology (IT) and data security is of the utmost importance to Vision for Education, and it is integral to the schools and settings that we work with. IT and data underpin the key teaching, learning, pastoral and operational functions of a school or setting, and similarly they can pose great risk to those functions if appropriate considerations and actions are not undertaken where required.

Our IT and Information Security Policy applies to all supply staff, including those who have access to a placement setting's IT systems, data, or physical records as part of their supply placement. It covers the handling of electronic, paper-based and verbally received information. It is to be followed alongside the setting's own IT and data security policy (or similar), which always takes precedence in relation to that particular setting.

You can find our IT and Information Security Policy below:
LINK: Information security policy for supply staff

Please remember:

- keep pupil information secure;
- only access information you need to perform your role;
- do not remove confidential information from school unless authorised;
- dispose of handwritten notes securely in line with school procedures;
- never discuss learners in public places or on social media

Training

It's important to keep your training record with us up to date. If you have completed any recent safeguarding or child protection training or allergy training via schools, voluntary roles or other agencies, please email copies of your certificates to your agency:

- visionadminbox@visionforeducation.co.uk



Data protection and privacy



Protecting your data is important to us. Find out more about how we comply with legislation in the Privacy section on our websites.

- www.visionforeducation.co.uk/privacy-policy
- www.smartteachers.co.uk/privacy-policy

Please note that some of the resources detailed in this bulletin are from third-party providers which are not part of Edwin (Vision for Education/Smart Teachers) and should be used at your own discretion.