

# Safeguarding in Education Spring Term 1 Bulletin

2020 – 21 HT3 (January 2021)

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the spring term edition of the Safeguarding in Education Bulletin from Together for Children. The start to this year has been something we have never seen before in education. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your commitment, hard work and dedication you have shown to our children and families.

In this turbulent time, we need to be aware of the increased risks to the safety and wellbeing of our children. This bulletin is packed with information and advice relevant to the current context to safeguarding children. In this bulletin you will find information and resources on promoting online safety, preventing child sexual abuse, supporting those who experience domestic abuse and where to signpost those in need.

It's important that if you need support yourself, you should reach out to your line manager or Headteacher. There is also the Education Support Service, a free helpline for staff in education. It may be a valuable source of support for you, or your colleagues, at this challenging time. For more details see their [website](#) or call 08000 562 561.

Best wishes,

**Simon Marshall**

Director of Education



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If you have any queries about any of the information contained within this bulletin, please speak to your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in the first instance.

## PART 1 – ALL STAFF

### SAFEGUARDING DURING LOCKDOWN – ONLINE SAFETY

With more children and young people spending an increased amount of time at home online, the risk to them has increased. The UK Safer Internet Centre & South West Grid for Learning (SWfL) have recently reported that searches for child sexual abuse content are also on the increase.

It's important as ever to promote positive and healthy online use and remind pupils and families about your school's key online safety messages. SWfL have produced their top 10 online safety tips [here](#).

[Thinkuknow.co.uk](http://Thinkuknow.co.uk) have produced some great resources for teaching online safety.

Click [here](#) to visit their resources Thinkuknow: professionals.

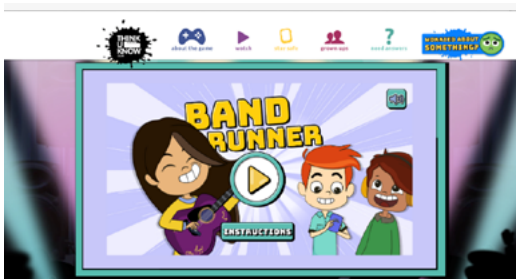
Some of their most recent resources include:



#### Jessie & Friends: Online safety education for 4-7 year olds

Give your 4-7 year olds the knowledge, skills and confidence to stay safe online with Jessie & Friends, a three-episode animated series and resource pack. It has been awarded the PSHE Association Quality Mark.

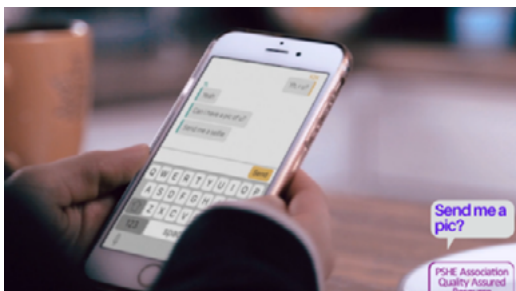
[Jessie & Friends: online safety education for 4-7s \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)



#### Band Runner for 8-10 year olds

Band Runner is an interactive game which aims to help 8-10 year olds learn how to stay safe from the risks they might encounter online. Band Runner is hosted within an informative website providing online safety advice for 8-10 year olds.

[Band Runner game and website for 8-10 year olds \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)



#### Send me a pic?

'Send me a pic?' is a brand new Thinkuknow education resource on the consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude images among young people. The resource pack contains three sessions plans based on short film clips. Each clip shows a fictional online chat where young people request, receive and discuss issues related to nude images.

[Send me a pic? \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)

ChildNet have produced a very helpful fact sheet and checklist for parents:

Supporting Young People Online [www.childnet.com/ufiles/Supporting-Young-People-Online.pdf](http://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Supporting-Young-People-Online.pdf).

The leaflet is available in additional languages [www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online](http://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online).

# Safer Internet Day

9th February 2021

This year's theme:

## An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world

This year in the UK, Safer Internet Day explores reliability online. The internet has an amazing range of information and opportunities online, but how do we separate fact from fiction? Safer Internet Day will be celebrated globally with the slogan: **Together for a better internet.**

For more information click visit: [Safer Internet Day 2021 | Safer Internet Centre](#)



## CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION FILMS AND ADVICE FOR PARENTS



**Parents Protect** is part of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation and together with the Stop It Now! Sexual abuse prevention campaign they have produced a great resource for parents.

Parents Protect includes a series of short videos that will inform parents what they need to know about child sexual abuse and how to prevent it, including spotting the signs and online safety. The short videos available are:

1. [Understanding child sexual abuse](#)
2. [What do we mean by child sexual abuse?](#)
3. [The effects of child sexual abuse](#)
4. [Who abuses children?](#)
5. [Young people with harmful sexual behaviours](#)
6. [Online safety](#)
7. [How do abusers do it?](#)
8. [Recognising the warning signs in children](#)
9. [Recognising the warning signs in adults](#)
10. [Why don't children tell about abuse?](#)
11. [Family safety plan](#)
12. [What to do if you suspect abuse?](#)

**Parents Protect**

Together we can prevent  
child sexual abuse

Source: [Parents Protect](#)

## DOMESTIC ABUSE – OPERATION ENCOMPASS HELPLINE

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have recently reported a 7% rise in recorded domestic abuse offences in March to June 2020 compared to previous years.

When Police respond to a domestic abuse incident, 'Key Adults' within schools in Sunderland will be notified by 11am the next working day. This is called Operation Encompass. Key Adults have received specific training on responding to Operation Encompass notifications.

The Home Office and Department for Education (DfE) have funded a specific Operation Encompass Teachers Helpline. Teachers can call to speak to an Educational Psychologist about how best to support the pupil.



**OPERATION ENCOMPASS**

Are you concerned about a child or children in your school who are experiencing domestic abuse?

Would you like FREE advice and a professional dialogue with an Education Psychologist about how to best support them?

Call the Operation Encompass Teachers' Helpline

**0204 513 9990**

(Charged at local rate)

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 1.00pm

Funded by Home Office Department for Education

The helpline is available Monday to Friday from 8am – 1pm during term time and is available to all school staff.

**Operation Encompass Helpline: 0204 513 9990** [www.operationencompass.org/teachers-helpline](http://www.operationencompass.org/teachers-helpline)

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) can also access support from Together for Children's Early Help Advice and Allocations Team (EHAAT) on 0191 561 4084 [EHAAT@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:EHAAT@togetherforchildren.org.uk) or the Integrated Contact and Referral Team (ICRT) on 0191 561 7007.

If you are new to the role of 'Key Adult' or would like some refresher training, you can access online Key Adult Training through this website [Online Key Adult Training : Operation Encompass](#)

**Sources:** [Domestic abuse during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#) & [OE-teachers-helpline-info-040121.pdf \(operationencompass.org\)](#)

## FOOD BANKS IN SUNDERLAND

During the current pandemic, some families may need access to a Food Bank. For the most up to date list of Food Banks in Sunderland along with their opening times, please visit:

[Sunderland Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

Parents can also call Sunderland Citizens Advice on 0300 330 1194 to speak to a trained and independent Citizens Advice agent (Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm).

**Source:** [Locations | Sunderland Foodbank](#)



## PART 2 – DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS (DSLs)

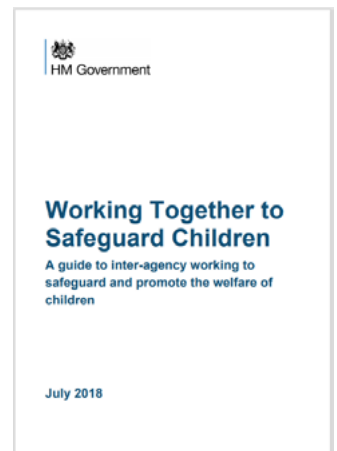
### UPDATES TO STATUTORY GUIDANCE – WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

In December 2020, the Department for Education (DfE) [updated Working together to safeguard children 2018](#). The DfE advertised the updates making ‘factual changes’ hence the date has not been changed. DSLs and senior leaders must be aware of the updates:

- References to domestic abuse have been strengthened with explicit reference to controlling and coercive behaviour. Domestic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour are both now defined as abuse.
- The definition of safeguarding now includes “physical and mental” health in line with the updates to KCSIE 2020. Contextual Safeguarding is now referred to as Extra-Familial Harm; this highlights the threat to young people and recognition of abuse in teenage relationships.
- The recognition of the needs of families when there is a parent or child in custody and when a child is in an inpatient mental health setting.
- Mental health problems are highlighted as a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. Working Together recognises that school staff are well placed to observe and act upon early signs.
- Working Together emphasises the need for education staff to be aware of the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Seeking consent is now more closely aligned to the GDPR approach - consent for a referral or assessment would need to be truly consent in the meaning of the regulations. In many cases families feel obliged to say they agree, which is not consent at all.
- The inclusion of a new homelessness duty section requiring a referral (with consent) to housing services where there is a risk of homelessness.
- The need to override information sharing barriers where young people are at risk of going missing, not just when they are missing.

**DSLs should ensure their child protection policy reflects the above amendments. DSLs should ensure all staff are aware of the changes.**

**Source:** [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



### RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS WHEN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SHARE NUDES AND SEMI-NUDES

- The [UK Council for Internet Safety \(UKCIS\)](#) has updated its guidance on Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (YPSI), entitled ‘Sharing nudes and semi-nudes’.
- The advice is designed for designated safeguarding leads (DSLs), their deputies, headteachers and senior leadership teams within schools.
- The updated guidance can be found here: [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#).
- DSLs should ensure they share the updated one page fact sheet with all staff [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: how to respond to an incident \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#).

**Source:** [UK Council for Internet Safety - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION (KCSIE) 2021 – CONSULTATION

The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a consultation on a proposed update to KCSIE for September 2021.

The DfE are proposing to:

- introduce a new condensed annex that schools may decide to use with staff who do not work 'directly with children', instead of them reading and understanding Part One.
- reminding schools that they should include cyberbullying in the behaviour policy.
- improving advice on information sharing, stating that 'schools and colleges have clear powers to share, hold and use information for [identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect, and in promoting children's welfare, including their educational outcomes.]'
- linking safeguarding to the behaviour management section of the Teacher Standards to 'ensure a good and safe educational environment.'
- including 'child abduction and community safety incidents' in the potential harms section.

**There are significant potential changes to safer recruitment, child on child sexual violence and harassment and the DSL's role. The consultation is open until 4th March 2021 (11:45pm) and can be found here:**  
[consult.education.gov.uk/safeguarding-in-schools-team/keeping-children-safe-in-education-schools-and-col/](https://consult.education.gov.uk/safeguarding-in-schools-team/keeping-children-safe-in-education-schools-and-col/)

## BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANS – CHILD PROTECTION RECORDS

**Most schools in Sunderland now use online child protection management systems e.g. CPOMS, MyConcern etc.**

Have you planned how you would access these systems if you didn't have access to the internet? How would staff record concerns? How would DSLs access records to check what has previously been recorded for a pupil?

## REVIEWING ONLINE SAFETY



**When was the last time you reviewed online safety as a school?**

KCSIE 2020 recommends schools use the SWGfL 360 safe website [360 Degree Safe - Online Safety Review Tool | SWGfL](#)

## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION TRANSLATIONS (LGFL)

**Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. That's why ALL school staff must read and understand Part 1 of the DfE's statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).**

That's why, as part of LGfL's commitment to helping schools keep children safe, they have produced translations of KCSIE Part 1 into eleven key community languages. These are now available below as free, open-access documents.

To access the documents, follow this link [kcsietranslate.lgfl.net](https://kcsietranslate.lgfl.net)

**Source:** [national.lgfl.net/digisafe/kcsietranslate](https://national.lgfl.net/digisafe/kcsietranslate)

**For more information contact Ronnie Lynn – School Improvement Officer (Safeguarding) on 07557 801 273 or [ronnie.lynn@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:ronnie.lynn@togetherforchildren.org.uk)**