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SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE

WALES

ISSUE: 11 **September 2024**

Welcome to the new academic year! We hope you had an exciting summer holiday and took some time for some well-deserved rest.

In this Safeguarding and Child Protection Update, we enclose some useful information to keep your knowledge up-to-date and relevant to Welsh schools.

Physical contact and proximity guidance

We operate a no contact policy for supply staff with students, which should always be adhered to except in the following circumstances:

- **If a student is at risk of harming** themselves or others.
- **When providing personal care as part of your agreed job role.** You should always carry out the task with sensitivity and respect, and ensure another appropriate adult is in the vicinity and aware of the task to be undertaken.
- **Supply staff who are Team Teach trained** (please provide your consultant with proof of qualification if you have not already done so).
- **Supply staff who are first aid trained and in a situation where first aid is required** (please provide your consultant with current proof of qualification if you have not already done so).

If physical contact is necessary, always be mindful that physical contact and/or close physical proximity with a child, young person or vulnerable adult may be misinterpreted and may leave you open to scrutiny. Usually, you should never be on your own with a child. If you cannot avoid this, make sure you keep the classroom door open and do not block any exits.

Physical contact and proximity guidance continued

When working with students who have an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**, ensure you have a comprehensive understanding of their individual needs. This includes considerations such as their sensory, health or social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, particularly concerning physical contact.

Ensuring physical contact is necessary, reasonable and proportionate will ensure that you are working in line with the **Education Workforce Council's principals.**

The importance of whistleblowing

Recently, the case involving ex-head teacher Neil Foden hit the headlines as he went to Criminal Court. When significant incidents like this occur, we must ask ourselves what we can learn.

Reports suggest that teachers around Foden observed his poor practice but were too afraid to report him.

***Content warning** – this link contains sensitive content which some readers may find upsetting.*
"The other teachers were afraid of him too, they didn't step up and say anything about it."

This case highlights the importance of whistleblowing and reporting incidents. You can do this by speaking to relevant persons within the school such as the head teacher, HR manager or board of governors.

You can find more information regarding school safeguarding procedures, and whistleblowing, in this summary version of the Keeping Learners Safe guidance.

A call to prioritise babies, children and young people

Children in Wales is the national umbrella body for organisations and individuals who work with children, young people and their families in Wales. In light of the recent election, Children in Wales called for all political parties to commit to ambitious policies which improve the lives of all children and families in Wales, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged; tackles climate change; ends child poverty and protects the human rights of all children.

You can read more about the organisation's plea's on the **Children in Wales website.**

Online safety

Below is an update to resources produced by Childnet's Education Team. The teaching resources on screen time and live streaming are available for use with 7-11-year-olds (Screen Time and Healthy Balance) and for ages 11+ (To Stream Or Not To Stream). Childnet's Education Team works directly with over 20,000 children and young people every year, enabling their researchers to understand current risks, opinions, and issues around key topics.

Childnet website: New updates to teaching resources on screen time and live streaming

Time to update your training

Your safeguarding training needs to be updated annually. Please check your latest certificate and see if this is due for renewal.

If you have completed any relevant training within schools or via different organisations, please feel free to send your certificate through to **visionadminbox@visionforeducation.co.uk** so that we can update your profile.

Also, if you are a qualified teacher, we would recommend you register with the Hwb platform, which hosts a national collection of digital tools and resources to support education in Wales.

You can sign up on the **Hwb website.**