VISION for EDUCATION abc teachers .smart. teachers

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE

WALES

ISSUE: 13 **April 2025**

We hope that you have had a well-rested Easter break and feel refreshed as we return. To help you prepare, please read this issue of our termly Safeguarding and Child Protection Update.

We hope you find the update useful, and we appreciate you taking the time to read it in full.

Changes to education in Wales

The Welsh Government is implementing a new curriculum for Wales to better prepare students for a rapidly evolving world. This new curriculum emphasises literacy, numeracy, digital competence and bilingual skills. Aiming to develop confident and capable citizens, traditional subjects are now integrated into six areas of learning and experience, fostering interdisciplinary understanding:

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Wellbeing
- Humanities
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology

Assessment practices have shifted focus towards individual learner progression, moving away from one-off judgements in favor of continuous, personalised evaluations.
The curriculum is being rolled out gradually, with full implementation expected by 2026.

WEB LINK: New curriculum for Wales

Changes to education in Wales continued

Senedd's Petitions Committee concludes smartphone ban unwarranted

The Senedd's Petitions Committee has concluded that a nationwide ban on smartphones in Welsh schools is unwarranted. While acknowledging the potential harms, they emphasise that smartphones can also support student welfare and safety.

The committee recommends that the Welsh Government provide clear guidance and a robust framework, empowering individual schools to establish their own mobile phone policies. This approach allows schools to tailor policies to their own unique contexts, balancing the benefits and drawbacks of smartphone use among students.

WEB LINK: No smartphone ban for Welsh schools

Policy updates

IT and Data Security Policy

Please review our Information Technology (IT) and Data Security Policy and update your working practice where required in line with the guidance. IT and data security are of the utmost importance to our agency and the schools and settings we work with. The policy contains useful advice on a range of topics, such as the types of data you may deal with during your placement, keeping devices safe and data sharing.

WEB LINK: Read our updated IT and Data Security Policy

Agency Workers' Sexual Harassment Policy

Please familiarise yourself with our Sexual Harassment Policy to ensure that you are aware of staff expectations around conduct, and the protections in place to ensure that our agency staff are treated with dignity and respect in their place of work.

We believe that all our staff have the right to work in an environment which is free from any form of harassment, including sexual harassment.

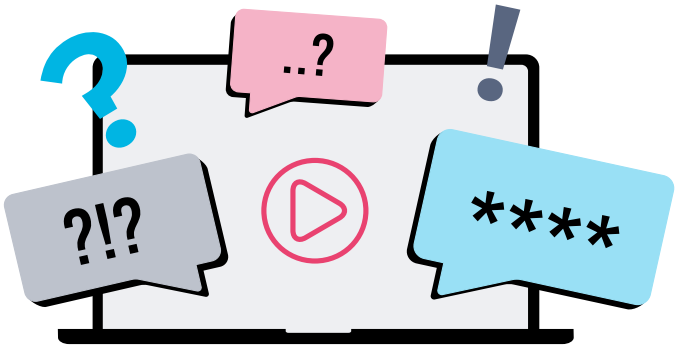
WEB LINK: Review our Agency Workers' Sexual Harassment Policy

London Grid for Learning (LGfL) has created a new video session for staff and parents about online harms and generative artificial intelligence (GenAI).

WEB LINK: The latest information on the harms landscape for parents, teachers and safeguarders

They have collated the latest resources from other organisations for you to use and share:

WEB LINK: Generative AI resources from LGfL



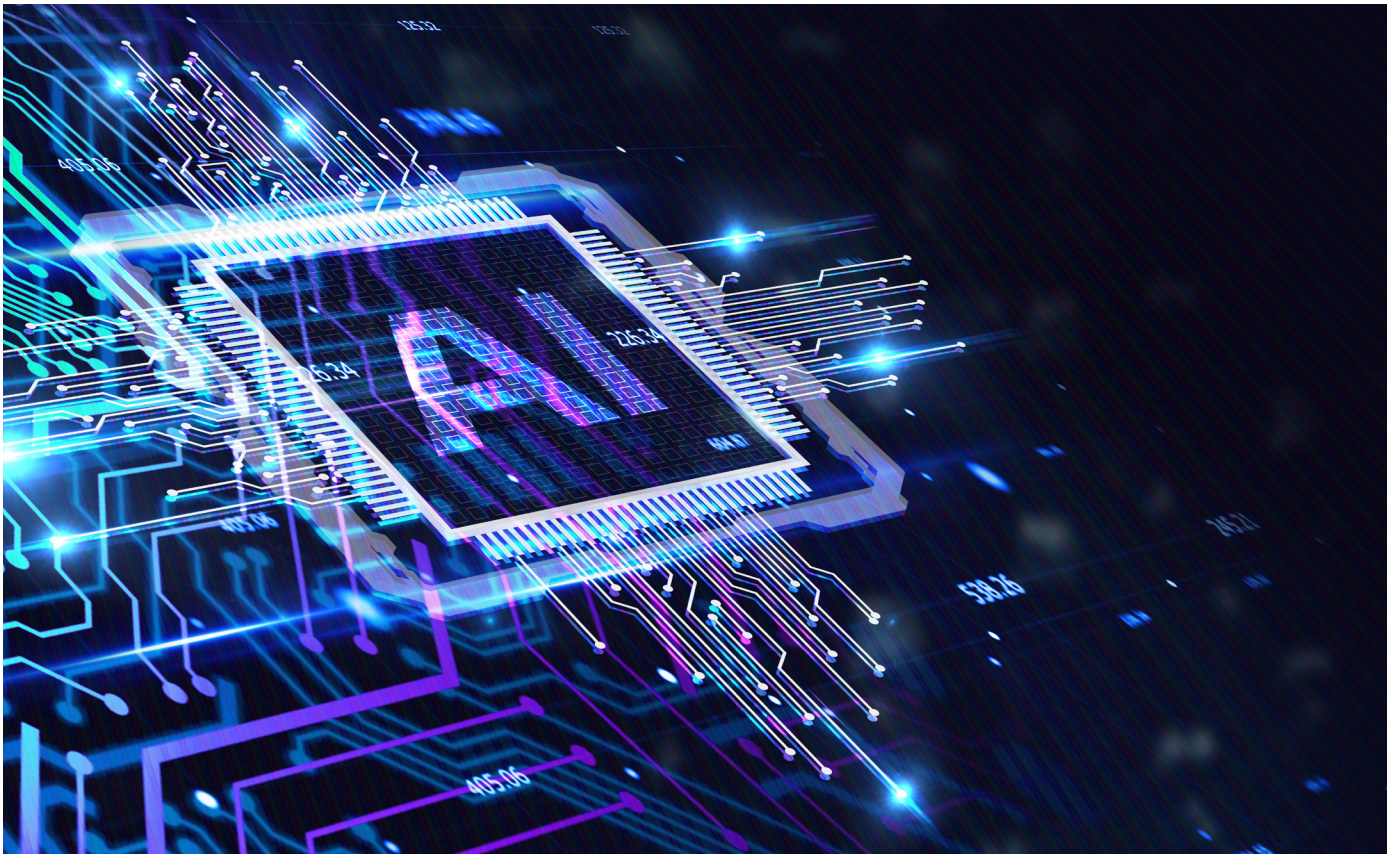
NSPCC generative AI

The NSPCC has also published research and recommendations in a report for the government and technology companies. Their research aimed to understand the range of harms that children experience from GenAI, identify solutions to these harms and recommend necessary policy responses.

The report sets out their findings and recommendations, drawn from:

- An analysis of research on GenAI commissioned by the NSPCC and conducted by legal and technology consultancy AWO. The research included two phases of qualitative interviews and a workshop capturing a wide range of professional voices from a variety of sectors such as child safety, GenAI developers and policymakers.
- A consultation with a panel of 11 young people aged 13-16 from the NSPCC's Voice of Online Youth.
- Insights from Childline about children's experiences with AI.

WEB LINK: NSPCC recommendations for generative AI



Incels, 'Adolescence' and boys' wellbeing

Staff may be familiar with the recent Netflix series, *Adolescence*. The four-part series shines a light on the dangers of social media and the impact of misogynist influencers on some teenage boys.

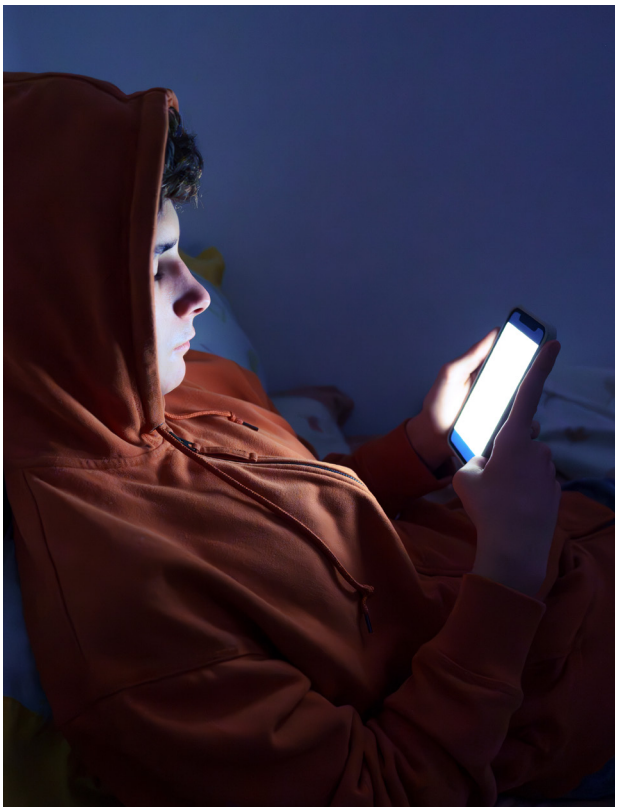
Much of the show is set in a school and is reflective of online harms that face children and young people. Guernsey police recently said that the series should act as a 'wake-up call' to parents, carers and professionals who work with children.

WEB LINK: 'Adolescence' Netflix series wake-up call for parents

Definition of an incel:

A member of an online community of mostly young men who do not feel that they are attractive to women and who often have negative views of women.

WEB LINK: More information on incels



Incel online subculture

Included below is a resource produced by Educate Against Hate, which explains what the incel online subculture is, and the signs that a young person may be engaging with it.

Although this is a teaching resource, the terminology, case study and information included may be useful to staff who are not already familiar with this information.

The guide aims to help the reader to:

- Understand what incels are.
- Understand which terms and concepts are used by incels.
- Potential harms of engaging with incel subculture(s).
- Understand what to do if you are concerned that a student or learner is engaging with the incel online subculture.

You can find the resource below:

WEB LINK: Guide for teaching and supporting Year 10 and above

The Lost Boys Report

When considering outcomes and influences for young boys, the wider context has been reviewed by the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), and they have published a report looking at key issues facing boys and young men in the UK, and the divergence in boys' and girls' outcomes and attitudes.

The report explores issues around employment, education, families and fathers, crime and technology, including online pornography.

WEB LINK: The Lost Boys Report

Research reports

Looking at the increased risk of abuse for d/Deaf and disabled children and young people.

The NSPCC has created the resource pages linked below to inform professionals working with children about the increased risk of abuse for d/Deaf and disabled children and young people.

This includes children who:

- Are d/Deaf
- Have a learning disability
- Have visual impairment
- Have a long-term illness
- Have a physical disability such as cerebral palsy
- Are neurodiverse, such as being on the autistic spectrum or having attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

WEB LINK: Safeguarding d/Deaf and disabled children

Wellbeing toolkit

Stress awareness

Education Support has produced an interactive Staff Wellbeing Toolkit aimed at staff working in education. This is a carefully selected range of wellbeing tips and exercises to support your wellness. It includes interactive exercises that you can put into practice.

WEB LINK: Your Staff Wellbeing Toolkit

Training resources

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

- visionadminbox@visionforeducation.co.uk
- abcadmininbox@abc-teachers.co.uk
- smartadminbox@smartteachers.co.uk

If you haven't completed a safeguarding course within the last 12 months, please speak to your consultant for more details about the free online course we can provide.

FREE training courses available:

- **PREVENT training** – Learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation. At the end of the course, you will be provided with a certificate of completion which you should forward to your consultant to be added to your training record.
  - **WEB LINK: .GOV website: PREVENT training online course**
- **Online CPD sessions** – Visit our website for more information on our upcoming training sessions. Led by experienced practitioners, the training is free of charge but spaces are limited. Please ensure that any sessions you wish to attend are relevant to your role and the needs of the students you work with before signing up.
  - **WEB LINK: Vision for Education: FREE online CPD**

Your data and privacy

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

- www.visionforeducation.co.uk/privacy-policy
- www.abc-teachers.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 The Edwin Group (Vision for Education/ABC Teachers/Smart Teachers) and should be used at your own discretion.