VISION for EDUCATION abc teachers .smart. teachers

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE

WALES

ISSUE: 14 **September 2025**

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, including an **overview of recent changes to the EWC Code of Professional Conduct and Practice.**

EWC Code of Professional Conduct and Practice updates

The Education Workforce Council (EWC) has published a revised **Code of Professional Conduct and Practice**.

The code is a key document for EWC registrants as it sets out the standards, behaviours and values expected of them as education practitioners.

The changes ensure the code is fully aligned with all 13 categories of the EWC register and reflects current best practice in language and terminology. A new principle on leadership has also been introduced.

To help registrants understand and embed the code into their practice, **the EWC has created a range of supporting resources**, including on-demand webinars, good practice guides and animations.

New professional learning body

Starting in September 2025, Wales is shaking up how teachers and education staff develop their skills. The new National Professional Learning and Leadership Education Wales Body will bring together professional learning across the country. This approach aims to create a unified system delivering consistent support that improves learning outcomes.

A fresh approach to teacher development in Wales

ALN system update

A Cabinet Statement has been issued by Lynne Neagle MS, Cabinet Secretary for Education, providing an update on the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system.

Update on the review of the ALN legislative framework

Online safety and the Online Safety Act 2023

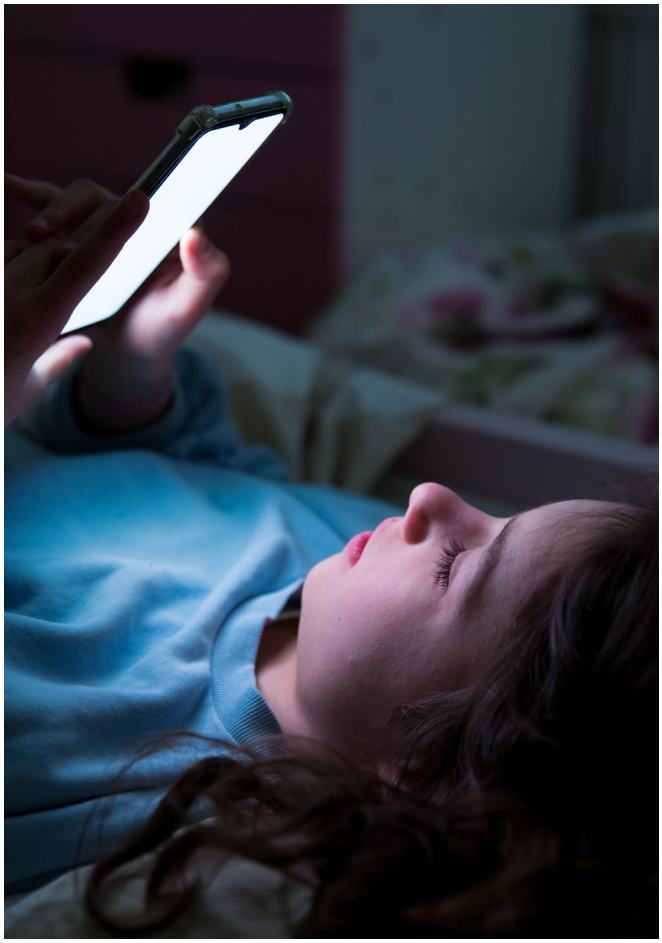
In today's digital landscape, children and young people have unprecedented access to the internet for learning, socialising and entertainment. While this connectivity offers numerous benefits, it also exposes them to potential risks such as harmful content, cyberbullying, online predators and privacy breaches.

Without proper guidance and protection, these risks can have serious implications for young users. It's essential to teach children how to use the internet responsibly, set clear boundaries, and encourage the development of positive digital habits. Parental involvement, open communication and age-appropriate tools are key to creating a secure online environment.

For educators, understanding the potential online risks that students may encounter is crucial. This awareness enables you to address issues appropriately and foster a safe digital learning space.

The websites below contain some useful resources to help you create and maintain safer online spaces for children.

- **Safeguarding children from online abuse**
- **Online safety resources SWGFL**
- **Keeping safe online end-of-year round-up**



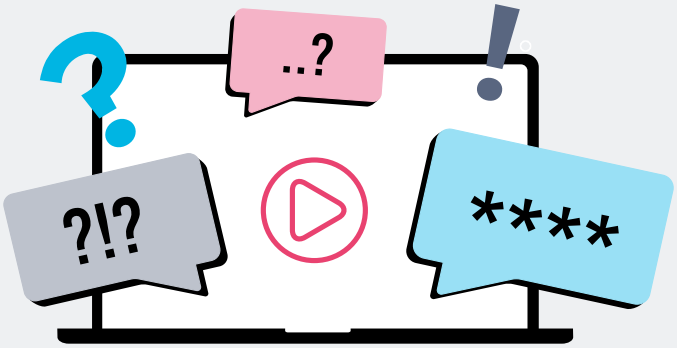
Online Safety Act 2023

The Online Safety Act 2023 has the primary function of safeguarding children and adults on the internet. As of 25th July 2025, the Act has put new duties on social media companies and other platforms to implement systems and processes to impose age restrictions on social media sites/services, reduce the risk of illegal activities, and remove inappropriate content.

Various online services are now required by law to prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate content through methods such as digital identity verification, to safeguard children from restricted content.

Within the Online Safety Act 2023, new offences were introduced to safeguard individuals on the internet. These newly introduced offences include:

- encouraging/assisting self-harm
- cyberflashing
- sending false information intended to cause non-trivial harm
- threatening communications
- intimate image abuse (including deepfake and AI pseudo-photographs), and
- epilepsy trolling.



The Act requires all online companies to take preventative measures against illegal activities on their platforms, including robust flagging systems to remove illegal content and reduce the risk of it being uploaded again in the future.

The Online Safety Act 2023 also identifies primary and secondary priority content that children must be protected from online. You can find out more about the types and categories of illegal content using the link below.

- **Online Safety Act 2023 – Further Detail (GOV)**

The Act intends to make it harder for cyber-criminals to operate and aims to censor content that may cause harm to the wellbeing of individuals, especially children and young people.

As part of your review of online safety, please also familiarise yourself with our expectations for data security while working in schools or other settings for our agency:

- **Data Security Policy**

Personal life – disclosure

This is a reminder that, in line with our registration terms and staff code of conduct, all staff are required to promptly disclose to us any instances in which they are the subject of investigations or enquiries by third parties. This may include investigations by the police, an alternative employer or agency, or the Local Authority's Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO), and may relate to your personal or professional life.

While we appreciate the importance of personal privacy, transparency and disclosure are essential to ensure that we can safeguard the wellbeing of the children and young people you may work with, and so that we can provide you with any necessary support and information.

If you are currently involved in any such matter or become aware of one in the future, please notify your local branch, or email **dsl@edwin.supply** at the earliest opportunity. All information shared will be treated with discretion.

Physical contact

When working with students who have an Individual Development Plan (IDP), ensure you have a comprehensive understanding of their individual needs, including Additional Learning Needs (ALN), particularly concerning physical contact.

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.

Generally, you should never be alone with a child. If unavoidable, make sure you keep the classroom door open and do not block any exits.

Social media

The **Social Networking Policy** within our **Staff Code of Conduct** includes important information about keeping your online activity safe and professional.

We recommend:

- Using an alternative or variation of your name that students would not know for your profile name.
- Maintaining a private account.
- Posting mindfully, taking care to represent yourself professionally online, and ensuring all profile photos are appropriate to your role in a position of trust.
- Considering the photographs and videos you post, and the content that others post of you. Specifically reviewing what information they reveal, making sure not to expose your home address and school locations etc.

Top tip

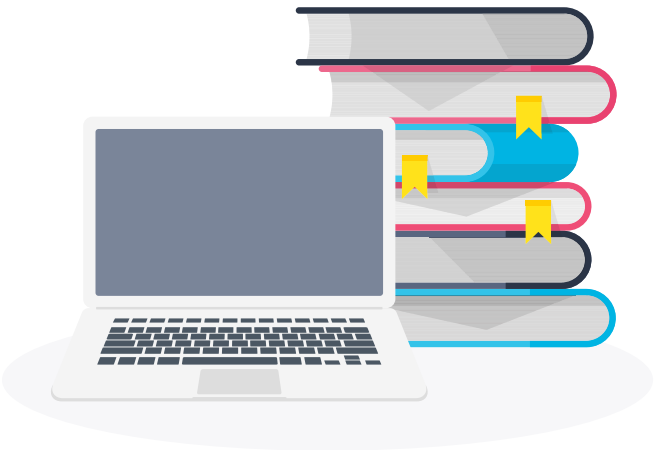
Be mindful of your online connections. Do you have friends who live near the school you work in? Review any tagged social media photos and be aware that parents, carers and students may gain access to your weekend activities.

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

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.



GDPR

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**

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/ABC Teachers/Smart Teachers) and should be used at your own discretion.