VISION for EDUCATION abc teachers .smart. teachers

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE

ISSUE: 9 January 2024

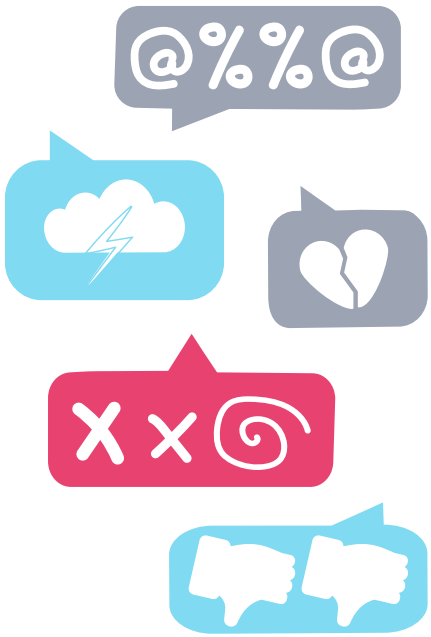
We hope you've had a great start to the academic year and enjoyed some well-deserved rest over the festive period. We are beginning the term with some safeguarding updates to supplement and maintain your knowledge. Please read the next instalment of our termly Safeguarding & Child Protection Update.

Case reviews - bullying

The **NSPCC** has shared a briefing about case reviews to compile a list of government findings about what the education sector may do to improve safeguarding practice.

WEBLINK: Education – Learning from case reviews

One key finding was that schools and school staff were not recognising the causes and consequences of bullying. We remind you to be aware of a child's body language in the classroom, during play times and when leaving school. Bullying can take place within school, outside school and at home, and can be hard for a child to disclose. If you believe a child is being bullied, this must be reported to the school's pastoral and/or designated safeguarding lead (DSL) as soon as you suspect it.



There are some great resources and advice available on the National Bullying Helpline website.

WEBLINK: National Bullying Helpline's bullying at school help and advice

Social media guidance

SWGfl has published social media guidance for school staff. It includes professional advice around the use of social media and technology in lessons and it also considers your personal accounts.

WEBLINK: SWGfl's social media guidance for school staff

You can learn more about our expectations for appropriate boundaries online for supply staff in our Social Networking Policy.

WEBLINK: Social Networking Policy

We recommend:

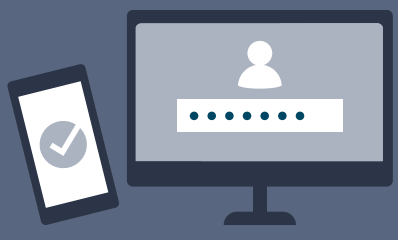
- Using an alternative or variation of your name that would be unknown to students for your profile name.
- Maintaining a private account.
- Posting mindfully, taking care to represent yourself professionally online. Ensuring all profile photos for social media accounts are appropriate to your role in a position of trust.
- Consider 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.

Online filtering and monitoring

Online filtering and monitoring should now be in place across all schools and colleges, controlled by the site's IT department. The term 'filtering and monitoring' refers to appropriate checks and safeguards being in place regarding a student's online activity when using school technology and ensuring that dangerous content is blocked.

How does this affect you?

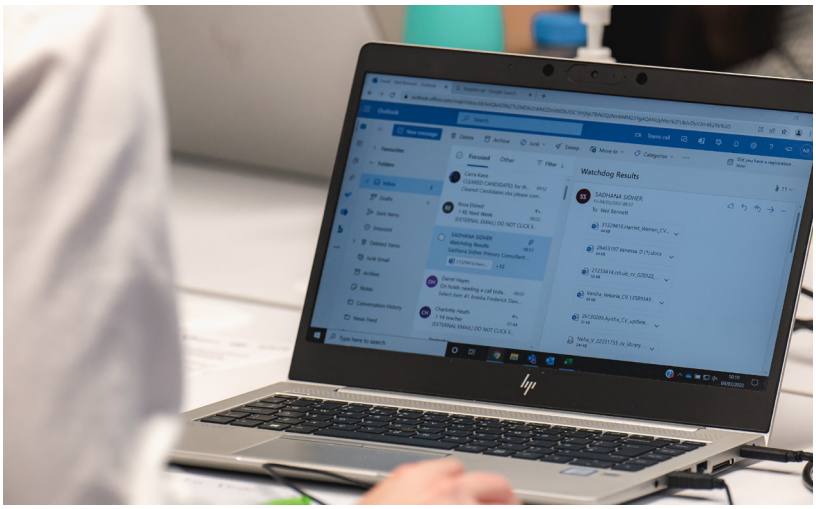
- All staff, including supply staff, have a responsibility to contribute to the school's successful filtering and monitoring of their IT systems.
- All staff should know how to report and record concerns about a student's IT use – ensure you know how to report concerns to the school's DSL from the start of each placement.
- If you are concerned that a student has accessed something unsuitable, don't assume that it has been picked up by the filtering and monitoring system. You might report something that you overhear a young person mention they have accessed on the school system, or it could be something that they access in a lesson. Any concerns need to be reported to the DSL who holds the responsibility for filtering and monitoring within their school.
- Report it if you have been able to access unsuitable material on a school device.
- It can be helpful if you speak to the DSL and IT team in advance if you know that you will be teaching topics that will create unusual activity that could alert the IT monitoring system.
- Report if there's a failure in the software or abuse of the system, for example, if you notice abbreviations or misspellings that allow access to restricted material.



Online safety

Ineqe Safeguarding Group has produced a new resource called 'The Online Safety Show', which is a monthly roundup of news stories from the digital world, primarily aimed at 8-14-year-olds, and presented in an age-appropriate manner. The debut episode looks at topics such as online trends and challenges, TikTok and its influence on the news, the role of AI (artificial intelligence), and the so-called mobile phone ban in schools and colleges.

WEBLINK: Episode 1 – The Online Safety Show



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 consultant.

The following free training courses are available for CPD:

- **PREVENT training –** Please see the link below for more information about the free training course offered by the government. 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.

  WEBLINK: .Gov website's prevent training

- **Safeguarding training via EduCompli –** This course can be completed on a web browser or via an app on your mobile phone. We would recommend this course if you have not undertaken a safeguarding course within the previous 12 months, or if you know yours will be due for renewal soon. Please contact your consultant to express your interest and you will be enrolled. Your consultant will need to provide EduCompli with your name and email address – please see our **Privacy Policy** for more details.