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SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE



ISSUE: 8 **Tuesday 10th October 2023**

We hope that you've had a well-rested summer and and you're enjoying the first term of the academic year. To support your safeguarding CPD, please read the next instalment of our termly Safeguarding & Child Protection Update, which we hope you will find beneficial.



No contact policy

As an agency, we operate a general no contact policy to protect both you as a staff member and your students. The policy should always be adhered to, apart from in the following circumstances:

- In the event that a student is at risk of harming themselves or others.
- Where you are providing personal care as part of your agreed job role. You should carry out the task with sensitivity and respect. Ensure another appropriate adult is in the vicinity and is aware of the task to be undertaken.
- Where supply workers are Team Teach trained (please provide your consultant with your proof of an up-to-date Team Teach certificate, so they can add it to your record).
- Supply workers who are first aid trained and are in a situation where first aid is required (please provide your consultant with current proof of your first aid qualification if you have not already done so).

If physical contact is necessary, always be mindful that physical contact with a child, young person or vulnerable adult may be misinterpreted.

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. If working with students who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), ensure you have a comprehensive understanding of their needs, especially in relation to physical contact.

Investigations

Should the police, Disclosure and Barring Service, social services or any other body begin an investigation of which you are the subject, we must be notified immediately.

Inform your branch consultant or email the Safeguarding Team's Designated Safeguarding Lead directly at:

dsl@visionforeducation.co.uk



Marriage and forced marriage legislation update

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 raised the minimum age of marriage and civil partnerships to 18 in England and Wales from 26th February 2023.

The new law has made it an offence for a person to aid, abet or encourage any child under 18 to enter into any form of marriage or civil partnership. It also makes it a criminal offence for a responsible person, such as a parent or guardian, to fail to protect a child from entering any form of marriage or civil partnership.

This change is reflected in the Department for Education's Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 guidance update.



Online activity

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

Newer applications, such as Threads and BeReal, are gaining popularity amongst staff and students. We recommend that you do not include your full name in any usernames or handles and always maintain the highest privacy settings.



BeReal.

BeReal is an app where users upload photographs to their online profile. Users may look like they are taking a 'selfie', however the rear camera on mobile devices also snaps a picture at the same time too.

If you feel you have been photographed/ recorded by students, you should follow the school's Behaviour Management Policy. If further intervention is required, seek support from a senior member of staff at the school.

Online safety resources

Ineqe Safeguarding Group's Safety Centre

A trusted third-party resource for internet safety has produced a hub of guidance and advice in relation to online safety. You can learn more about blocking, muting or reporting on popular online platforms, and understanding privacy settings.

We recommend familiarising yourself with the various tools you can utilise to keep yourself and others safe online:

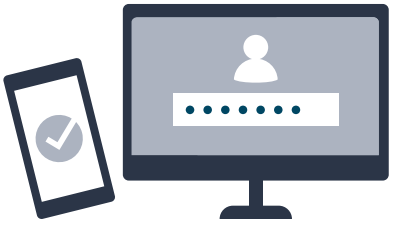
Ineqe Safeguarding Group's Safety Centre

Internet Watch Foundation's Annual Report

This comprehensive report presents data related to the online activities of criminals who sought to exploit children throughout 2022.

Their report will help you understand some of the wider dangers of the online world for students.

Internet Watch Foundation's Annual Report





Online challenges

An online challenge is when users participate in games, activities, skits or dares. They usually originate on apps like TikTok, YouTube or Instagram before spreading to other platforms.

These challenges are often short-lived, but can gain popularity very quickly, so it's important that you understand what these challenges are, how they can impact young people and what you need to do to protect those in your care.

As a professional working in a position of trust, you should be wary of participating in any online challenges yourself. It's important that you lead by example and are aware that there may be instances where students may seek out your social media accounts and content.

You can find out more about understanding and responding to online challenges on the Ineqe Safeguarding Group website at:

Ineqe's online viral challenges



Use of language

Our **Code of Conduct** shares information around using language that could be considered inappropriate, sexualised, intimidating or offensive and how this may be considered a low-level concern.

Please be mindful of any personal values and opinions you share in the public domain, and how this may affect your professional profile. You should also consider how your views may be received by students and colleagues in your professional environment.



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 website.

Please note that some of the resources detailed in this bulletin are from third party providers and are not part of The Edwin Group (Vision for Education/ABC Teachers/Smart Teachers/Edwin Education) and should be used at your own discretion.