bsa | BOARDING SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION

Safeguarding
Newsletter 7

Throughout the year, BSA has tried to keep boarding professionals worldwide abreast of the latest challenges and dangers, and has highlighted issues with a number of items to which children are exposed in both the online and offline worlds. With the academic year for most member schools drawing to a close, and being aware that many colleagues have already broken up, many of these issues are resurfacing just in time for the long summer holiday.

BSA recommends, therefore, that schools consider these items in advance of the new academic year, and make any necessary changes to policies, procedures and, essentially, to PSHE/ Life Skills lessons to reflect the ongoing dangers:

Working Together to Safeguard Children

This edition contains details of changes announced in England on 4 July to **Working Together to Safeguard Children**. LSCBs now have a two-year period to transition to safeguarding partner arrangements. Obviously, there will be issues for schools as the LSCBs you deal with may well transition at different times.

Issued on the same day is **Information Sharing: advice for practitioners**, which highlights the fact the Seven Golden Rules for Information Sharing are still current and that "GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children and young people safe." At the end of this newsletter is a section on the imminent changes to **Keeping Children Safe in Education**, which come into force on 3 September.

Online

The online world is an important and often misunderstood area for professionals. It is essential that appropriate online behaviour is encouraged, as no school security or filter system, or procedure relating to use of gadgets can totally protect children.

Live streaming continues to be a threat, particularly as a platform for online grooming, and the dangers of social gaming and gambling are becoming more widely known.

Within the last week media focus has been given to how a primary school child witnessed a simulated rape scene by avatars in the Roblox game, and there are growing concerns about the influence of the game Fortnite. Simply banning the games is not the answer!

This might be a good time to catch up with the guidance in **Education for a Connected World** or to research some of the social gaming and gambling information at **www.ygam.org** in order to be ahead of the game when school reconvenes!

Offline

There has been much discussion recently of the issue of upskirting, though often without highlighting the particular concerns within schools. Research by Girlguiding UK from 2017 indicates that 64% of girls aged 13-21 had experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment at school or college in the past year. This included 39% having their bra strap pulled by a boy and 27% having their skirts pulled up within the last week.

This research is highlighted in the **Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges** (May 2018) guidance, and colleagues in England should now incorporate the guidance into their policies and procedures. The guidance is, however, pertinent to all jurisdictions. It makes clear that sexual violence and harassment exist on a continuum, and failure to deal with lower level behaviours, risks normalising them and making more extreme behaviours likely. In that context, colleagues will also wish to be aware of the current campaign to **#stopstreetharassment**, which aims to deal with catcalling and other forms of unacceptable harassment in the street, and of course in school!

bsa | BOARDING SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION

GDPR

As mentioned above, GDPR should not get in the way of safeguarding. An unexpected side-effect of GDPR, however, was the decision by WhatsApp to restrict use of the app to those aged 16 and above, although there seem to be no control measures to help enforce this. Where schools are using WhatsApp groups as a way of exchanging information, this now means that it is no longer ethical to do so with pupils aged under 16, and use with older pupils should be considered very carefully.

Online security

Whilst predominantly concentrating in these newsletters on issues relating to pupils, BSA has recently become aware of security issues with regard to school email accounts. Phishing emails have become ever more plausible, as BSA knows to its cost, and the unpleasant side-effect of hackers having access to email details is that it gives them additional way of conducting potentially fraudulent activity.

Please be aware that this has included sending parents emails, purportedly asking for payment of fees to a different account, and sending emails to schools, supposedly withdrawing a child, and asking for repayment of fees. Please urge staff in accounts departments to be vigilant for any discrepancies.

You can read more about this here.

The next issue of the newsletter will be in late September, the BSA wishes all colleagues a happy and healthy summer break. As a final piece of holiday homework for those of you in England, herewith a summary of the changes to KCSIE for September!

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION - SEPT 18

The following important changes and clarifications are contained in the September 3 version of KCSIE. Please note it is likely that a further update will be issued to take account of new linked documentation over the summer.

The following is not an exhaustive list (see Annex H of the guidance for that!) but does indicate some of the main areas. However, safeguarding colleagues are urged to read the document themselves and to have a procedure in place to ensure ALL staff and volunteers have read the new part one and that their knowledge has been assessed in some way:

- The TRA replaces NCTL (April 2018), and all references have been changed.
- There is clarification that "school" means all schools.
- The terms "must" and "should" are explained. "Must" involves a legal requirement to do something and "should" means the advice set out should be followed unless there is good reason not to.
- All staff (i.e. not just teachers) must know the behaviour policy
- All staff must know the response to children going missing
- A clear indicator that staff must act on **any concerns,** with a flowchart on p13
- Clarification in paras 24-28 on handling disclosures in school
- Clearer guidance on FGM and the specific duty on **teaching** staff
- The link between peer on peer abuse and Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment (para 50)
- Responsibility of boards and governing bodies for "leadership" of safeguarding
- That each school should have an individual Child Protection policy, even if part of a group.
- That schools should hold more than one emergency contact number if possible
- For children leaving, the DSL should consider sharing information with the new setting at an early stage, and before transferring the file
- A clear statement that safeguarding includes online safety
- That schools should not have a "no contact" policy
- There are also considerable changes in Part 3 to the Safer Recruitment guidance and in Part 4 to dealing with allegations against staff
- Part 5 is a new section linking to the guidance on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
- The list of specific safeguarding issues in Annex A includes new or updated guidance on:
- Children and the court system- new information
- Children with family members in prison- new information
- County Lines- new information
- Domestic abuse- new information
- Homelessness- new information
- Honour Based Violence- additional context
- Preventing radicalisation- redrafted to focus on what staff should be doing and considering
- Peer on peer abuse
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment

Dale Wilkins, Head of Safeguarding and Standards, BSA