

Safeguarding Update



1. Article - Sex Education Lessons

June 2015

An article in Guardian Teacher Network discusses how sex education should be taught in schools and whether lessons should include showing x-rated films.

Link: <http://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2015/apr/29/schools-teaching-porn-sex-education>

2. Article - Young carers

Children and Young People Now reports on a new initiative managed by the Carers Trust and The Children's Society called the Young Carers in Schools Programme which will enable schools to sign up to receive guidance and tips on how to support young carers.

Link: http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1151113/young-carers-to-get-more-support-from-schools?utm_content=&utm_campaign=300415%20Daily&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcyp%2Fn

Link: <https://youngcarersinschools.wordpress.com/>

3. Publication - Young carers

The ADCS and the ADASS have published a local memorandum of understanding on best practice in working together to support young carers and their families.

4. Publication - Exam stress

ChildLine has reported a 200% increase in counselling sessions about exam stress last year. For the first time ever worries about school and education have emerged as a top concern for children and young people contacting ChildLine in 2013/14.

Link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/childline-reveals-a-200-increase-in-exam-stress-counselling-last-year/>

5. Publication - Physical signs of sexual abuse

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has updated Physical Signs of Child Sexual Abuse, otherwise known as the Purple Book. The first update since 2008, it includes three new chapters: anogenital signs of accidental injuries in girls and boys; genital bleeding in pre-pubertal girls; and healing in anogenital injuries.

Link: <http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/news/updated-sexual-abuse-guidance-will-help-%E2%80%98full-picture-emerge%E2%80%99-say-child-protection-experts>

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6. Research - Telegraph - Bullying

June 2015

The Telegraph reports that a King's College London study has found that frequent bullying by peers in childhood increases the chances of someone being obese by the age of 45 by 50% and shortens lives.

Link: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/children/11616217/Bullying-in-childhood-to-blame-for-one-million-obese-Britons.html>

7. Research - BBC - Dental neglect

The BBC reports that a Cardiff University study has found that dentists in Wales lack the confidence to refer children with dental neglect to social services.

Link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-32741509>

8. Government - Blanket ban to clamp down on 'legal highs'

Action to protect young people from the dangers of so-called 'legal highs' and target those who profit from their trade was announced by the UK government today. The Psychoactive Substances Bill will prohibit and disrupt the production, distribution, sale and supply of new psychoactive substances in the UK. They are often sold online or on the high street.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/blanket-ban-to-clamp-down-on-legal-highs>

9. Government - London CSE Operating Protocol 2nd Edition

This revised protocol has been further developed since its launch in February 2014. It sets out how agencies will identify and address CSE: providing a standard and consistent response across London. The Protocol sets out the procedures for safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children from CSE. It sets out how through our partnerships we assess, challenge and provide an enhanced, effective service to reduce the harm and threats posed to children and young people from CSE.

Link: <http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>

10. Government - Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn term 2014

Levels of pupil absence in primary and secondary schools in the 2014 autumn term

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england-autumn-term-2014>

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11. Government - Female genital mutilation, experimental statistics

Newly identified cases of FGM and active caseload. England and commissioning regions.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/female-genital-mutilation-experimental-statistics-march-2014>

12. HSE Case 365 -Students banned from attending school on their last day

Issue

A media article carried a story of a school banning sixth year students from attending on their last day, citing health and safety.

Panel opinion

Health and safety law is being used as a convenient catchall here to hide the real issues. Muck-up days happen in lots of schools up and down the country and are about having fun. Boundaries to the celebrations should be set in advance and clear expectations set on what and what will not be allowed so that leavers do not blot their copy books on the last day. The school should rely on normal school discipline arrangements and not use health and safety as an excuse for banning students from having a memorable last day.

Link: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/myth-busting/2015/case365-students-banned-from-attending-school-on-their-last-day.htm>

13. Whistleblowing: list of prescribed people and bodies

If you decide to blow the whistle to a prescribed person rather than your employer, you must make sure that you've chosen the correct person or body for your issue. This document is a list of the prescribed persons and bodies who you can make a disclosure to. There is also a brief description about the matters you can report to each prescribed person.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/blowing-the-whistle-list-of-prescribed-people-and-bodies--2>