



April 2026

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Welcome to April's edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter.

We are excited to share some important developments within our Personal Development Curriculum, particularly the expansion of our Leadership Strand. As part of our commitment to empowering learners to shape their community, we are increasing opportunities for them to take on meaningful leadership roles that will support our whole-school safeguarding culture.

Alongside our established Future Leaders and Green Ambassadors, we are now launching a brand-new Online Safety Group. Learners will choose the group's name over the coming week, ensuring they play a central role in its design and feel a strong sense of ownership over its development.

If your child would like to be part of this new Online Safety Team, they can put themselves forward by giving a short speech to their year group. Speeches will take place in their Home Zone Gathering after the Easter break, where peers will vote for representatives from each year group.

We look forward to seeing learners step confidently into these roles and help shape a safer, kinder and more informed online community across our school.

Access & Response Team (ART)

The Access and Response Team (ART) are the "front door" of children's and young peoples' services in South Glos.

Tel: 01454 866000 (office hours) 01454 615165 (out of hours/weekends)

E-mail: accessandresponse@southglos.gov.uk

Notes: Office hours are Mon - Thurs 9.00 – 5.00 and Friday 9.00-4.30

The Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team.



Mrs Rea
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



Miss McDonnell & Miss Black
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Leads (DDSL)

CONTACT THE WFA SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Safeguarding@wfa.clf.uk



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SPOTLIGHT ON: Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is a serious safeguarding issue that can affect any family. It includes **controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading or violent behaviour**, including sexual violence, carried out by a partner, ex-partner, family member or carer. Children who witness domestic abuse are recognised as victims, as it can have long-term impacts on their wellbeing.

Key Things to Know

Domestic abuse:

- Can happen anywhere, not only inside the home.
- Can occur through technology, including phone calls, texts, emails and social media.
- Can happen during or after a relationship, including after separation.
- Affects people of all genders and backgrounds.

Different Forms Domestic Abuse Can Take

Domestic abuse can be emotional, physical, sexual, financial or psychological. Examples include:

- Physical harm such as hitting, kicking or punching.
- Sexual abuse, including rape within a relationship.
- Financial control, such as withholding money or stopping someone from working.
- Coercive control, including telling someone where they can go or what they can wear.
- Preventing someone from leaving the house.
- Monitoring messages, emails or online activity.
- Threatening a person, their children or their pets

Impact on Children and Young People

Living with domestic abuse can affect a child's:

- Behaviour and emotional regulation
- Mental health and anxiety levels
- Physical health and sense of safety
- Long-term wellbeing into adulthood

Early support makes a real difference, which is why schools play such an important role.

CONTACT THE WFA SAFEGUARDING TEAM



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Our Commitment: We Are an Operation Encompass School (Bristol)

We are proud to be part of **Operation Encompass**, a safeguarding partnership between police and education.

What Operation Encompass Means for Your Child

When the police attend a domestic abuse incident where a child is linked to the household, they are legally required to notify the child's school **before the next school day**.

This confidential notification is sent directly to our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) known in the system as the Key Adult, so that:

- We can offer immediate emotional support.
- Staff can take a trauma-informed approach with the child that day.

We can make appropriate adjustments to ensure the child feels safe and supported.

Information for Our South Gloucestershire Families

South Gloucestershire is also preparing to implement **Operation Encompass**, with local guidance confirming it is part of the wider regional rollout of the national programme.

This means families living in South Glos can expect the same early-notification safeguarding approach to be introduced, strengthening support for children affected by domestic abuse.

Where to Get Help

If you or someone you know may be experiencing domestic abuse, support is available:

National Domestic Abuse Helpline (Women's Aid & Refuge) 0808 2000 247 (Free, 24 hours)

Provides emotional support, safety planning and referrals to emergency accommodation.

Men's Advice Line (Respect) 0808 801 0327 Confidential support for men experiencing domestic abuse, including gay, bisexual, trans and non-binary men.

Useful Contacts:

North Bristol Food Bank: 0117 472 5172

Nextlink Domestic Abuse support services: Call: 0800 4700 280 Text: 0740 789 5620 or email: enquiries@nextlinkhousing.co.uk

Kooth: a free, safe and anonymous online mental health and wellbeing service for children and young people (10-18)

YoungMinds: supporting children and young people's mental health

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ADULT ANIMATED CONTENT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Bright, bold, and widely shared, adult animated content is more popular than ever, but not always what it seems. These videos, which may appear cartoonish and harmless, often contain strong language, explicit themes, graphic violence, or dark humour. Many are accessible through platforms like YouTube, TikTok or streaming services, where filters may not catch them in time.

MISLEADING VISUAL STYLE

Many adult animations mimic the colourful, exaggerated look of children's cartoons. This can easily mislead not just children, but also adults, into thinking they're suitable for younger viewers. Without watching the content fully, parents or educators might approve a show or video that contains explicit jokes, graphic imagery, or highly inappropriate language, all disguised beneath a playful and fun visual style.

EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL THEMES

A number of adult animated shows and online videos explore mature or disturbing themes, such as addiction, trauma, abuse, self-harm, or violence, and often do so in a stylised or humorous way. Younger viewers may not have the emotional maturity to process this content, leading to confusion, distress, or the normalisation of very serious issues that should be discussed in a supportive context.

RISK OF DISTRESS AND FEAR

Some adult animations, especially horror-based content or 'creepypasta' style stories, include disturbing imagery, unsettling music, and sudden scares. These videos sometimes feature distorted versions of well-known children's characters, such as Sonic the Hedgehog or Peppa Pig, in frightening or violent scenarios. Children can be negatively affected if they come across this unexpectedly, leading to sleep disturbances, anxiety, or long-lasting fears, especially if children have existing worries or sensitive personalities.

INFLUENCE OF EDGY HUMOUR

Dark, edgy humour is common in adult animation and often includes jokes about topics like sexism, racism, mental illness, or abuse. When children hear these jokes, they may repeat them without fully understanding their meaning. This can lead to inappropriate behaviour in school or online spaces, and in some cases, it can reinforce harmful stereotypes or desensitise children to real-world injustice and discrimination.

ALGORITHMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Video platforms are designed to keep users watching by suggesting similar content. If a child watches one mature animation, they may quickly be shown more, including even darker or more extreme videos. These recommendations are based on viewing patterns, not age-appropriateness. Without strict settings in place, this can lead to a rapid spiral into unsuitable, upsetting, or even harmful content online.

DESENSITISATION TO VIOLENCE

Stylised violence in animation is often exaggerated and constant. Repeated exposure to it can reduce a child's emotional response to harm, making aggression or cruelty appear entertaining or acceptable. Over time, children may become less empathetic or more tolerant of harmful behaviours in real life, especially if they see others online reacting with humour, memes, or praise for violent characters or scenes.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN WHAT CHILDREN ARE WATCHING

Take time to ask children what they're watching and who their favourite creators are. Sit down and watch a few videos to get a full understanding. This helps you spot inappropriate content early and shows children that you're interested and engaged in their online world, not just policing it.

USE PLATFORM SETTINGS WISELY

Make use of built-in safety tools like content filters, restricted mode, and age settings on platforms such as YouTube, Netflix or TikTok. Turn off auto-play where possible and regularly review what children are being recommended. Although these settings aren't foolproof, they add an important layer of protection and help reduce the risk of children encountering disturbing or adult content accidentally.

TALK ABOUT WHAT'S APPROPRIATE

Keep communication open and non-judgemental. Talk about why certain themes or jokes are not appropriate for children, even if they appear in animated form. Help children understand that just because something is popular or shared widely, it does not mean it's suitable or safe. If they've seen something upsetting, respond calmly, offer reassurance, and explain things in an age-appropriate way.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Help children think carefully about what they watch. Talk about the difference between fictional exaggeration and reality, while helping them question why certain content is made. Is it informative, entertaining, or meant to shock? This builds digital resilience and encourages them to make safer choices in future, rather than simply following viral trends or peer pressure to watch mature content.

Meet Our Expert

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