



# **Safeguarding – what governors need to know in 2021.**

**6<sup>th</sup> May 2021**



Steve Barker



Linda  
Waghorn

# Aims of this

## session

---



to explore safeguarding in schools in 2021, as the UK emerges from the shadow of Covid-19;




to understand the new pressures and risks that are presented to children and young people in our schools;



to explore good practice in monitoring the safeguarding provision in our schools and trusts.



A person wearing a white puffer jacket and black gloves is holding a white sign with a blue border. The sign has the text "WE WON'T MISS YOU 2020" written in red, hand-drawn letters. The person is standing on a city street with a red brick building on the left and trees and a street lamp on the right. The background is slightly blurred.

WE WON'T MISS  
YOU 2020

**The backdrop:**

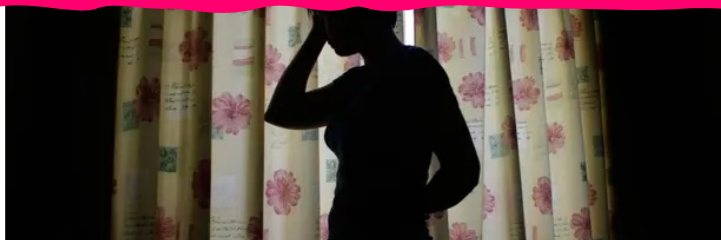


Facebook encryption plans will hit fight  
against child abuse, warns Patel  
NSPCC fears end-to-end encryption  
that identify grooming and is

2021-04-29 / News

# Calls to the NSPCC helpline surge during the pandemic

A record number of adults concerned about children called the NSPCC helpline in the last 12 months, with adults' health and behaviour the top concern.<sup>1</sup>



News > Education > Education News



# Everyone's Invited: What is the website with 10,000 sexual abuse complaints and will there be an inquiry?

Site features experiences of misogyny, harassment, abuse and assault from university-age students to pupils as young as nine

**Samuel Osborne** | @SamuelOsborne93 | Tuesday 30 March 2021 12:09 | 5 comments



---

# Poll #1

# What can schools do?

A photograph of children standing in a grassy field. The image is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent white rectangular box in the center. The children's legs and feet are visible at the bottom, wearing various colored pants and shoes. Their arms are extended outwards, suggesting they are holding the box. The background shows a green field and some trees under a bright sky.

Create a culture of  
vigilance



A blurred background image of a classroom. A teacher in a dark blue shirt is holding a large sheet of paper, possibly a drawing or a poster, and looking at it. A young girl in a pink shirt is standing next to her. In the foreground, the back of a child's head with blonde hair is visible. The room has a red wall with various papers and a window with blinds in the background.

## Culture of vigilance:

- a robust policy framework – lived and breathed;
- everyone has eyes and ears open;
- knowing our safeguarding context;
- believe - it **can** happen here;
- Don't think '*what if I'm wrong*' – think '*what if I'm right?*'

# A robust policy framework:

---



## Keeping children safe in education (2020)

Statutory guidance for schools and colleges

Update - January 2021 (Post EU Exit)

- Reflecting the latest statutory guidance;
- strengthened with staff training and awareness raising;
- regularly discussed;
- monitored and evaluated;
- Feedback to governing board.



**GOVERNORS  
FOR SCHOOLS**

# Look and listen:

- Staff aware of changes in pupil's behaviour, demeanour, self-esteem, self-confidence etc;
- listening to what pupils are saying/trying to say;
- reflect.

# Safeguarding Context:

---

- the threats to which pupils are vulnerable in your school;
- DSL team understanding context beyond the school gates;
- national threats and local trends;

# The signs staff should look for:



Who monitors? How do we

# Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation

---



- *'County Lines'*
- Links to radicalisation
- *'Cuckooing'*
- Indicators in addition to those for physical/sexual abuse:
  - new phones/tech;
  - cash;
  - new 'label' clothes;
  - talk of travel.

Who monitors? How do we

# Child online

- Unsupervised/no parental controlled access
- Phones, tablets, gaming devices, PCs
- Social networking
- On-line gaming, gambling and grooming
- The fastest growing threat to safety and well-being on children and young people

Who monitors? How do we know?

# Governor monitoring:

---

- recurring agenda item;
- safeguarding report:
  - data/Incidents;
  - new threats;
  - quality of external intervention/support;
  - staff cpd.
- feedback from safeguarding governor;
- asking questions.



# Good questions for Governors to ask:

---

- Have successive lockdowns changed concerns?
- What impact is this having on pupil mental health – are you signposting support?
- What more could social care do to support you?
- Have staff been trained in Prevent Duty and online safety?

# Any questions

---



# What you need to know, when you need to know it



Better Governor researches, interprets and distils the latest news in education policy, legislation and practice keeping you informed on how they impact your role as a governor or clerk.

[www.bettergovernor.co.uk](http://www.bettergovernor.co.uk)