SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE



ISSUE: 1 **Friday 14th May 2021**

Welcome to the first of our regular updates, designed to keep you up-to-date with relevant safeguarding and child protection matters, and to help you to feel more confident when faced with potential issues in your workplace. We hope that you find the update helpful and appreciate you taking the time to read it in full.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is everybody's responsibility, so it's important that you're familiar with the latest guidance and understand your responsibilities (and the responsibilities of others) in relation to safeguarding and child protection.

Policies & procedures

School policies & procedures

On **day one** of your placement, you should be aware of certain school policies and procedures, including:

- **Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy**
- **Behaviour Policy, and**
- **Code of Conduct Policy.**

These are usually available on the school's website – we'd recommend reading them before you start your placement if you can. Alternatively, you can request copies at the school office on arrival.

Agency policies & procedures

We have recently updated some of our own policies and documents and would appreciate it if you would take the time to familiarise yourself with these documents:

- **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**
- **Code of Conduct**
- **Important Information for Supply Staff**

All of our other policies and procedures can be viewed online at:

- **www.visionforeducation.co.uk/keydocuments**
- **www.abc-teachers.co.uk/keydocuments**
- **www.smartteachers.co.uk/keydocuments**

Vision for Education
ABC Teachers
Smart Teachers

T 0800 085 0644 W www.visionforeducation.co.uk
T 01543 410 500 W www.abc-teachers.co.uk
T 020 7065 7500 W www.smartteachers.co.uk

Peer-on-peer sexual abuse

Recent publicity around the 'Everyone's invited' movement has shone a spotlight on thousands of young people who have been victims of sexual abuse by other young people.

The government has shared useful advice on 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges' and many schools will be in the process of reviewing their own peer-on-peer abuse, sexual violence and sexual harassment policies.

It is essential that you understand the reporting procedures outlined in the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and that you apply them appropriately.

For further information, we would recommend re-familiarising yourself with Keeping Children Safe in Education, part 1 and annex A. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy also includes guidance on peer-on-peer abuse, children with sexually harmful behaviour and details any actions to take when reporting abuse or concerns.

A new classification of online risk - the 4th C

After a year of remote learning, it's important to consider the increased risks of online harm for children and vulnerable adults. If you have received online training before, you may be familiar with the '3 C's' classification of recognising online risks.

Online risks can occur when a child or vulnerable adult:

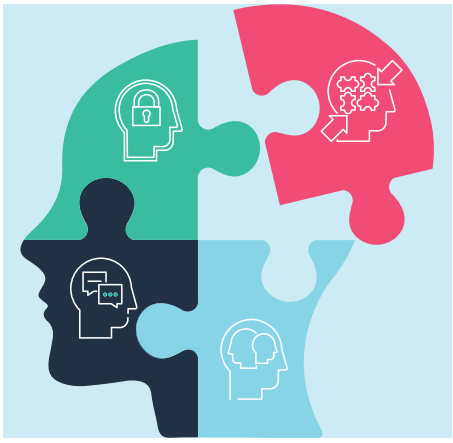
- is exposed to and/or engages with potentially harmful **content**
- experiences and/or is targeted by potentially harmful **contact,** or
- is witness to, participates in and/or is a victim of potentially harmful **conduct.**

CO:RE (Children Online: Research and Evidence) has recently published an article on a proposal for a 4th 'C', highlighting the risks to a child or vulnerable adult when they are **exploited by a potentially harmful contract –** including issues such as **identity theft, gambling, streaming child sexual abuse, profiling bias and more.**

Identifying the 4 C's is a simple way to understand the vast range of online issues which can be further categorised into aggressive, sexual, society values, as well as privacy, health and discrimination. For more detail on this, you can read the full article on CO:RE's website.

Supporting mental health

The Covid-19 pandemic has been an uncertain time for many of us and has impacted our mental health in a variety of ways.



Some worries and anxieties may have arisen due to the impact of the pandemic, such as:

- changes to home and/or family circumstances
- a sudden loss of activity, or
- new feelings of loneliness, isolation or bereavement.

Children and vulnerable adults may feel worried or anxious about other issues that go further than the virus. The trauma of abuse and neglect can increase the likelihood of children and vulnerable adults developing mental health issues, which can be carried into later life without early intervention.

Recognising signs that a child or vulnerable adult may be struggling is the first step towards help. The second is to respond appropriately. The NSPCC has a range of resources which you may find helpful, including video content that covers:

- how mental health can become a safeguarding concern
- the impact of abuse and neglect, and
- ways you can support children and young people with their mental health.