

## #EveryonesInvited

Two excellent legal blogs for further reading can be found here:

[Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP](#)

[Browne Jacobson LLP](#)

Plus, this excellent newsletter from Andrew Hall which is designed for DSLs and Safeguarding Governors and is free!



### Safeguarding Briefing - 12th April 2021

Dear Colleague,

#### **Ofsted review into sexual abuse in schools: terms of reference - GOV.UK**

Following the launch of the government's investigation into peer-on-peer sexual abuse, Ofsted has published its terms of reference.

The review will look at whether schools and colleges have appropriate processes in place to allow pupils to report sexual abuse concerns freely, knowing these will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

Ofsted will visit a sample of schools and colleges where cases have been highlighted, with ISI where appropriate, to look at how well safeguarding is working and to discuss the wider issues raised by the evidence. The review will not report on individual schools or cases, but present a picture of good and poor practice across the country.

The review will consider a number of areas, including:

- Whether the safeguarding guidance to schools is strong enough to safeguard children;
- How schools can be further supported to teach the new RSHE curriculum;
- Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements; and
- How well schools and colleges listen to the voices of children when reporting sexual abuse

The review is to conclude by the end of May 2021.

Read the document here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-review-of-sexual-abuse/ofsted-review-into-sexual-abuse-in-schools-terms-of-reference>

## Online CPD: Could your school have a rape culture?

I've created an online CPD session which looks at the testimonials uploaded to the website 'Everyone's Invited'. The session considers what guidance is already in place for sexual violence and sexual harassment, and what schools need to do next.

Safeguarding.Pro members go here: <https://safeguarding.pro/could-your-school-have-a-rape-culture/>

Non-members can access the online session here (£14.97+vat; online payments only):  
<https://event.webinarjam.com/register/216/mqkopigv>

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## Useful resources to support peer-on-peer abuse

### Everyone's Invited - Browne Jacobson (Dai Durbridge)

Dai Durbridge, head of the education safeguarding team at lawyers, Browne Jacobson, has written two really helpful blog posts covering:

- Managing reports relating to current students
- Managing reports where the alleged perpetrator has left your setting
- Previously investigated reports
- Statement for press, parents, stakeholders and the wider community
- Insurance considerations
- Data protection issues – sharing and retaining evidence
- Policy, procedure and staff training
- Further help and support

Update 1: <https://www.brownejacobson.com/education/training-and-resources/legal-updates/2021/03/everyones-invited-managing-reports-of-child-on-child-assault-and-harassment>

Update 2: <https://www.brownejacobson.com/education/training-and-resources/legal-updates/2021/04/everyones-invited-ofsted-to-review-safeguarding-policies>

### Beyond Referrals: levers for addressing harmful sexual behaviour in schools (Contextual Safeguarding Network)

In my opinion this is the go-to guide for helping you look carefully at harmful sexual behaviour in your school. This toolkit includes a range of school self-assessment methods:

- Student Survey
- Staff Survey
- Parents' Survey
- Reviewing Policies and Procedures
- Reviewing Safeguarding and Behaviour Logs in Schools
- Hotspot Mapping Guidance

Download the toolkit here: <https://www.csnetwork.org.uk/en/beyond-referrals-levers-for-addressing-harmful-sexual-behaviour-in-schools>

### Peer-on-peer abuse toolkit (Farrer and Co)

Legal provider Farrer & Co's Safeguarding Unit, in collaboration with Dr Carlene Firmin, MBE, from the University of Bedfordshire created a peer-on-peer abuse toolkit which was updated in 2019.

Download the toolkit here: <https://www.farrer.co.uk/news-and-insights/peer-on-peer-abuse-toolkit/>

## **Harmful sexual behaviour prevention toolkit (Lucy Faithfull Foundation)**

Stop It Now! UK and Ireland was established in 2002 by The Lucy Faithfull Foundation – the only UK wide charity dedicated solely to preventing child sexual abuse. Recognising that around a third of child sexual abuse is believed to be carried out by under 18s, the Stop It Now! Campaign has a Harmful sexual behaviour prevention toolkit.

Download the toolkit here: [https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Stop\\_It\\_Now\\_harmful\\_sexual\\_behaviour\\_prevention\\_toolkit\\_Oct\\_2020.pdf](https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Stop_It_Now_harmful_sexual_behaviour_prevention_toolkit_Oct_2020.pdf)

Find a range of other useful resources from Stop It Now! here:  
<https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/resources/>

## **For parents and carers: Sexual Abuse Learning Programme (Parents Protect)**

Parents Protect (a project of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation) has developed an online child sexual abuse and exploitation awareness learning programme for parents, carers and professionals to help:

- Understand potential risks
- Recognise the signs of possible abuse in children
- Be aware of inappropriate behaviour in adults
- Know where to go for help if you have concerns and would like to talk about them

Find the programme here: <https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/sexual-abuse-learning-programme.htm>

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## **Everyone's Invited: possible response for Primary Schools**

Whilst this issue is probably more prevalent in secondary schools, there are occasions where sexual abuse by children has happened within primary schools. This is an important issue, not least because the Internet Watch Foundation has found an increase in children abused online are being encouraged to abuse their siblings and friends. (see here: <https://www.iwf.org.uk/news/%E2%80%98beyond-heart-breaking%E2%80%99-abuse-predators-groom-children-film-siblings-and-friends>)

This will be a very difficult topic for parents and schools need to tread a very fine line. I think it is probably more useful for primary schools to talk about relationships, how boys and girls are taught to be respectful to each other and how any bullying is tackled (including any online).

I think letters to parents should have four aims (maybe a paragraph each):

- Acknowledge the concerns
  - Talk about what you are doing about the issue
  - Offer reassurance that this issue is being taken seriously
  - Give a positive example of what you have done in the past where issues have arisen (to show confidence that you 'know what you are doing')
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