



**GEORGE
SALTER
ACADEMY**

Safeguarding Bulletin

Issue Number 4

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Welcome to the fourth issue of GSA's Safeguarding Bulletin, which is almost exclusively about "Sexting." and the Safeguarding Survey.

In *Keeping Children Safe in Education*, September 2016, Sexting is highlighted as a specific concern for all schools. Furthermore, the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) recently released some comprehensive guidance (*Sexting in Schools and Colleges*) that makes it very clear how schools should handle incidents of Sexting.

It is becoming an increasing problem for parents and schools to tackle and is, therefore, one of our key priorities in keeping our children safe, not to mention the police.

As ever, if you have any questions following your reading of this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me on Ext 257, my email (richard.reeve@georgesalter.com) or via my office (Academy reception).

Best wishes,

Richard.

Designated Safeguarding Lead.

What is "Sexting"?

The UKCCIS guidance defines "Sexting" as concerning the production and sharing images of a sexual nature.

Our young people are growing up at a time when they have ready access to all kinds of images online, and the ability, via mobile phones, to take images of themselves or others, and send them to someone else. It happens - we have had at least 3 separate cases of it within GSA within the previous half-term, and all cases led to the police being involved.

It is against the law to make such an image or to send one to someone. It is not against the law to *receive* the image...only if the receiver passes it on are they engaging in illegal activity. We try to teach our students that once they send an image to someone, it is "out there", and who knows that will happen with that image?

Sexting—UKCCIS guidance

How should school's handle a "Sexting" incident?

The guidance provides a very useful template for school's that we have turned into our procedure for when an incident of this nature becomes apparent. You might ask yourself: "why is there a separate procedure for incidents of "Sexting"?". Well, consider if a young person approaches you to say "a girl has sent me a picture of themselves to my phone - here it is...". Would you let them show you the image? Or would you ask what it was first?

Always revert to your training: **Inform the DSL asap of such an incident. Do not view the image at any point.**

We now have our own Twitter and Facebook pages aimed at supporting parents to keep their children safe.

The Twitter feed is available on the Academy website, with the handle "safeguarding@GSA".



What MUST staff do with the initial disclosure?

If a young person approaches you, or you become aware of, a device that contains an image of a "sexual nature", then it is vital that you do the following:

- 1) Confiscate the device if present.
- 2) Do **not** view the image.
- 3) Ask open questions to ascertain the facts as far as you can.
- 4) Refer the matter (and the device) to the DSL immediately (complete a Safeguarding Concern Form as always, later if necessary).

It is important to highlight that *if* the image(s) must be viewed, they must only be viewed by the Principal or DSL, or another member of staff delegated by the Principal, with the viewing taking place preferably within the Principal's office.

The decision to view the image(s) in question should be taken *only if it is necessary in safeguarding the pupil concerned and taken by the Principal.*

Staff Safeguarding Survey

Thank you for completing this survey again so soon.

In September's Ofsted Monitoring Visit, we were asked to show further impact of safeguarding practice improvements and this is one of the ways of showing this. I am pleased to note that in *every* area within the survey we are able to demonstrate that the knowledge, understanding and confidence of staff surrounding safeguarding has improved markedly since May (when we took the first survey).

Highlights include:

1. What is the difference between safeguarding and child protection?

In May, **59%** got this right—Safeguarding is for all children; Child Protection applies to children affected by Child Abuse. In October, **89%** got this right.

2. After your most recent training, in May a total of **58%** said they felt more confident about their safeguarding role. Now **96%** say they are.

3. Where staff in May said they needed more training (e.g. **38%** asked for more on FGM in May; only **2%** now) the data shows the training undertaken has been effective. In October, the highest requests were for: Working with Difficult Families (**42%**); Self-Harm (**36%**); Gang Activity (**29%**), Homophobia (**20%**) and Drug and substance misuse (**20%**).

4. If you were concerned about the conduct of the Headteacher.... This question shows a big improvement. In May, only **49%** got the correct answer, that being you must refer to the Chair of Governors. In October, this rose to **71%**.

5. Question 15 is one that some still struggle with: "What could you do if no-one in the school was taking your safeguarding concern seriously?". To be fair, a few answers could have been picked here, but only **6%** picked "Contact the NSPCC", which is a valid action (see the back page of this bulletin). A total of **76%** did say "contact the local authority", which is a **9%** improvement on May.

6. Many more staff now think that there are sufficient opportunities for pupils to share their own concerns with adults in the school. In May, only **38%** felt there were "many ways". This is now **78%**.

7. When asked how confident staff feel their colleagues are about recognising safeguarding concerns, **100%** now feel they are, up from **68%** in May.

Staff Safeguarding Survey continued...

8. For confidence in challenging a senior leader about safeguarding concerns, **80%** said they would, up on **55%** in May. **3%** said “not at all confident”, an improvement on May’s **18%**.

9. Finally, would you challenge a stranger in the corridor?: a mix of responses could have been given here, including “ask politely if you can help...”; “ask politely to identify themselves...”; “confront them as a stranger...” or “Say ‘I notice...’”. **99%** chose one of these.

As noted by Ofsted in September and in our Safeguarding Review in November: we are on the right track. But there is still work to do...

Our Safeguarding Practices are being commended regularly, to the credit of our teaching and support staff. Let’s keep going...



What would you do in the following scenario ?

Q: You have a safeguarding concern for a pupil, and you have referred it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead but feel that he and the Principal are not taking the matter as seriously as you think they need to. What would you do?

A: **The NSPCC Whistleblowing helpline is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and email: help@nspcc.org.uk**