Subject:

Safeguarding and Child Protection – A Guide for Schools - Update

Revised Circular Number: 2017/04

Date of Issue: 2 September 2024

Audience:

- Principals and Boards of Governors of all grant-aided schools;
- Independent Schools;
- Education Authority;
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta;
- Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education;
- Governing Bodies Association;
- Pre-school Education Programme Providers;
- Controlled Schools' Support Council;
- EOTAS Centres;
- Middletown Centre for Autism
- Statutory and EA Funded Voluntary Youth Work Providers (Annex E)
- Voluntary Youth Sector Management Committees

Summary of Contents:

This circular is to advise you of the publication of an update to the Department's guidance – "Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools – A Guide for Schools".

Enquiries:
Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to:

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Status of contents:

Advice and Guidance

Related Documents:

The Department of Health document: 'Co-Operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland'

Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland

Superseded Documents:

- Circular 2017/04 (original & 2/9/19 and 14/9/23 updates)
- Circular 1999/10

DE Website:
This Circular and guidance document are available to download from Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools - A Guide for Schools
Circular 2017/04 - Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools - A Guide for Schools

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION IN SCHOOLS – A GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS

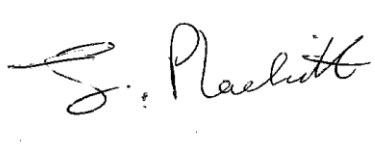
1. This Circular is to advise schools, EOTAS Centres, early years settings, youth settings, managing authorities and other educational partners, that the Department has published the: 'Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools – A Guide for Schools'. The latest guidance can be accessed at Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools - A Guide for Schools. The guidance will be reviewed annually and updates sent out as necessary.

2. The guide provides wide-ranging advice and guidance on many aspects of safeguarding and child protection. All Boards of Governors and Principals should consider the contents carefully in relation to their statutory responsibilities to safeguard children. The guidance is of particular relevance to the Designated and Deputy Designated teachers for Child Protection.

3. Particular attention should be paid to the references in the guidance to the key role of the Education Authority's Child Protection Support Service (CPSS). Contact **should** be made with CPSS for advice and support as soon as concerns of a safeguarding and/or child protection nature arise.

4. Whilst the guidance has been drafted for schools and EOTAS Centres, it is also useful for other settings, and they will therefore wish to consider how to reflect the processes outlined within their settings. The guidance also includes separate addenda for Youth and Early Years settings.

5. Also enclosed is a link to the Safeguarding Proformas. The proformas are no longer a requirement from Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI), however ETI will maintain these as schools may find them useful in advance of inspections and as a useful benchmark in reviewing the extent to which your setting complies with safeguarding requirements and indeed how it reflects best practice.
   Safeguarding



JULIE PLACKITT
Interim Head of Pupil Support Team