



Safeguarding, Health & Safety Consultants Ltd.

The Safety Scene

www.kymallanhsc.co.uk

SPRING 2017

Making Sense of Safeguarding

ISSUE 17



THIS ISSUE:

- Child Seat Laws
- Dangers of Trampolines
- Collective Passports continue
- First Aid training changes
- Online Safety resources

Welcome to the Safety Scene Spring 2017...

Here at KAHSC our mission is to ensure that education settings receive the very best safeguarding, health, safety and welfare service, advice and information. Currently, over 270 Cumbrian schools and an increasing number of schools from outside of the County subscribe to our services. Here are some of the things that our clients have said about us:

“The website is a hive of information I can find everything I need to know!...”

“Brilliant service, always helpful, sound and reliable advice delivered with a smile...”

“I have found Kym Allan H&S Consultants invaluable in providing support, advice and up to date information. Even those experienced in education would

benefit from Kym’s (and her team’s) experience and willingness to provide first class support...”

We hope you agree that our service is an invaluable support in the day to day running of your setting as we strive to bring you more and more benefits every year.

As always if you have any questions we are happy to help.

Sexting in Schools

The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) ‘Sexting in Schools: Responding to incidents and Safeguarding young people’ guidance aims to provide DSLs and Senior Leadership with advice on responding to incidents of sexting in schools.

The guide is referred to in KCSiE September 2016 and is available from the KAHSC website.

PLEASE NOTE:

Our Out of Hours Emergency Number has changed.
To contact us please call: **01228 210152**

Over £10m paid in school asbestos claims in past decade



Figures have revealed that in the past decade 32 councils throughout the UK have settled over £10m of asbestos related claims from former teachers, school staff and pupils.

The National Union of Teachers says up to 300 adults die each year due to exposure to asbestos whilst working in schools. This does not take into account those exposed whilst attending schools as pupils.

The government have pledged to invest £23bn by 2021 to improve schools and reduce the risk but campaigners don't believe that this is enough and are calling for the removal of all asbestos therefore removing the risk altogether.

Any school building built or refurbished before the year 2000 is likely to contain some form of asbestos unless it has since been removed. If left undisturbed the material poses no risk, however much of the problem is that in many cases people such as site staff and contractors don't know that the asbestos is there.

Schools must have up to date records of the asbestos on site. Surveys which

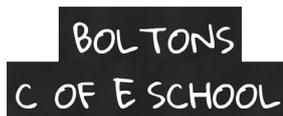
have been carried out must be checked to make certain that all areas have been investigated and if any areas are missing they must be re-visited to complete the survey. Before any building/refurbishment work can be undertaken settings must ensure that an R&D survey has been carried out to identify any asbestos which may be disturbed. For any advice regarding the asbestos in your school please contact our office and speak to Helen Blamire.

If you are planning works for this Summer, a building project checklist is available for use from the KAHSC website.

Star Performers



In this issue we would like to offer huge congratulations to: **Netherton Infant School - Maryport**, **Heron Hill Primary School - Kendal**, **Holme St Cuthbert School - Mawbray**, **Boltons CE School - Bolton Low Houses**, **Robert Ferguson Primary School - Carlisle** and **Milnthorpe Primary School - Milnthorpe**.



All of whom all scored high nineties in their recent County Council Health & Safety Audits. All six schools had pre-county audits from KAHSC and worked incredibly hard to achieve such amazing results. Well done to all involved, your success is thoroughly deserved.

Changes to First Aid training

Changes made by the Health & Safety Executive now allow blended learning as a form of Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) and First Aid at Work (FAW) training. This means that training providers can now deliver courses consisting of part face-to-face and part online learning. When choosing a blended learning course schools must ensure that the online elements of the course are as effective as the face-to-face elements and that the training

provider has systems in place to prevent identity fraud, allows sufficient time for both elements to be carried out effectively and provides adequate support for the learner.

In other changes, it is now mandatory that Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training is included within EFAW and FAW training. Learners are not required to complete the full AED syllabus but will need to

demonstrate competence in the correct placement of the AED pads and be able to follow the AED instructions.



Changes to laws for child seats

In December 2016 the laws regarding the categorisation of approved child seats changed. It is a legal requirement that all children travelling in the front or rear seat of any car, van or goods vehicle use the correct child seat until they are 135cm in height or 12 years old (whichever they reach first). After this they must use an adult seat belt.

Previously, children weighing as little as 15kg (around 3 years old) were allowed to travel in cars while sitting on a backless booster seat. Rules now state that they must stay in them until they are 12 years

old but experts have claimed that this seat is unsuitable for younger children.

From December, children under 12 must be transported in the appropriate child restraint as was always the case, but the new approved categories are:

- Children 125cm – 135cm tall and weighing more than 22kg can use a cushion/backless seat;
- Children under 125cm tall and weighing less than 22kg (i.e. smaller than an average 7 year old) should use a seat with a back.

The changes only apply when new child restraints are purchased. Parents/schools who have a backless booster seat now will still be able to use the seat without breaking any rules until it needs replacing.



Trampolines 'dangerous' says top bone surgeon



A senior bone surgeon has said that in his opinion trampolines are dangerous and should only be used under professional supervision. Injuries are common even with trampolines with safety netting, and whilst some are simply unpleasant other are potentially life-changing.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) says that more than 13,000 trampolining injuries are treated in hospitals every year. Of those recorded, broken arms, knee dislocations and neck injuries are some of the more serious.

Whilst the risks involved in such a high-energy activity cannot be denied they can be reduced with consideration of a few key issues: proper supervision to ensure appropriate use, choosing a suitable location to position the trampoline, ensuring that appropriate clothing

is worn and making sure that the trampoline is maintained properly and is safe before use.

As we have said countless times over the years, if we are to restrict children's play because there are risks involved then there would be no play at all and children would never learn to develop a perception of risk. The key is to take a sensible approach so that risks are managed appropriately.

For further information about trampoline safety visit www.rosipa.com/leisure-safety/advice/trampoline/.

Collective passports to continue for another 12 months

Following a campaign to 'save' collective or group passports it has been announced that the Passport Office will continue to issue these passports until at least the end of 2017.

The campaign involved the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) as well teaching unions who

reached out to teachers and other education professionals. The letter which went to Parliament was signed by 300 education professionals from a variety of schools and organisations.

PCS will now continue to work with politicians, organisations and individuals to ensure that the

on-going review will not mean further threat of closure in 2018 and the future.



Online safety resource for eight to ten year olds

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) recently launched 'Play Like Share', as part of their Thinkuknow programme. The three-episode animated series aims to teach eight to ten year olds how to stay safe from sexual abuse, exploitation and other risks they may encounter online.

The films follow the adventures of Sam, Ellie and Alfie (known as Selfie). Their behaviour mirrors the online behaviour of eight to ten

year olds such as gaming, chatting and sharing content with their friends and aims to help children identify the signs of pressuring and threatening behaviour, and give them the confidence to respond to these situations.

The Thinkuknow site offers teacher resources for all age groups and also has an area where children and young people can access activities targeted at their age group.

All teacher resources on the Thinkuknow site are free once users have registered to the site.

For further information or to register please visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers/.



IN COURT:

Council fined after boy nearly drowns during swimming lesson



The boy aged four, was taking part in a mixed age and ability play session at the end of a swimming lesson. The lifeguard had left his post to set up for the next lesson and instructors were filling out paperwork and chatting with parents. The boy's father arrived to

find his son face down in the water. He was pulled out and revived by the side of the pool.

An HSE investigation found that risk assessments failed to consider the mixed ages and abilities of the class, did not define roles and positions of staff supervising free play, did not look at the distraction caused by parents arriving and did not allow adequate time between sessions to set up the pool.

The council was found to be in breach of the Health & Safety at

Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, fined £75,000 and ordered to pay costs of £16,000.

There have been a number of similar incidents over the last couple of years, one of the main causes being inappropriate levels of supervision. Whether using your own staff or those provided by the pool, it is essential that all adults involved remain vigilant.

Looking for 'Prevent' training?

Educate Against Hate is a government funded website which provides practical advice on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation.

The 'Prevent' e-learning course is a valuable resource which is tailored from the start to each individual's needs, location and

even mood by asking a few simple questions.

The training is free and available to anyone with an interest in safeguarding vulnerable children.

Head to the website to www.educateagainsthate.com to find out more.

