



Safeguarding,
Health and Safety
Consultants

The Safety Scene

Making Sense of Safeguarding



THIS ISSUE:

- Sextortion
- E-Bikes
- Visits
- Finstas

Find us on social media



@Kymallanhsc

Welcome to the Safety Scene Summer 2024

So here we are again, almost at the end of another school year. Well done to everyone who has survived the year. Lots of issues have arisen, the regular changes in policies, procedures and almost a full year using our new Hub. Those of you who work in schools and settings in Cumbria have risen to the challenges with perhaps a few scowls, sighs and mumblings, but nevertheless, have simply got on with what was needed. I hope you have a super summer break. Rest relaxation and fun are the order of the day and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Best wishes and take care. Kym

In this edition we are praising yet more of you who have achieved outstanding results in recent Health and Safety audits.

Our congratulations go to:



Sacred Heart
Catholic Primary School



St Joseph's Catholic High School



Dean Gibson Catholic Primary School



NCA Alert - April 2024



The National Crime Agency has issued an alert to hundreds of thousands of education professionals following a considerable increase in global cases of financially motivated sexual extortion, a type of online blackmail widely known as 'sextortion'.

All age groups and genders are being targeted, but a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged between 14-18. Ninety one per cent of victims in UK sextortion cases dealt with by the Internet Watch Foundation in 2023 were male.

These crimes can be perpetrated by organised crime groups based overseas, predominantly in some West African countries, but some are also known to be located in Southeast Asia. They are motivated by the desire to make money quickly, rather than by sexual gratification, and in some cases, have gone from initial contact to blackmailing their victim in under an hour.

Advice to parents and carers if their child says that someone is trying to trick, threaten or blackmail them online:

- **Don't pay, do stop contact and block:** you may be tempted to pay, but there is no guarantee that this will stop the threats. As the offender's motive is to get money, once you have shown you can pay, they will likely ask for more and blackmail may continue. If you have paid, don't panic but don't pay anything more. Help your child to stop all communication with the offender and block them on any accounts that they have been contacted on.
- **Avoid deleting anything:** try not to delete anything that could be used as evidence such as messages, images, telephone numbers, and bank account details.
- **Report to the police or CEOP:** call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the [CEOP Safety Centre](#) to report any online blackmail attempts.

NSPCC Learning

**“It takes a village to raise a child.
And it takes a community to
keep children safe.”**

Keeping children and young people safe is everyone's responsibility. The NSPCC have launched new campaign, Listen up, Speak up.

NSPCC are asking the public to take free, 10-minute digital training and learn how to listen up and speak up for children and young people using three different scenarios covering the topics of mental health, neglect, physical abuse, online safety, and adult content.

To make it easy to remember, you'll learn how to connect the **DOTS** by:

- Describing the situation, being
- Open minded
- Think: if not you, then who?
- Speak to someone

Training available [here](#).

E-Bikes

Electric bikes, or e-bikes, are becoming increasingly popular in the UK. An e-bike is a bicycle equipped with an electric motor to assist you when you're pedalling. The motor gets its power from a rechargeable battery mounted on the bike. To classify as an e-bike, the motor must assist you, rather than propel you on its own, at speeds up to around 15.5 mph, which is the current legal limit for electric assistance in the UK. Once you are pedalling beyond that speed, the motor will not assist you.

Electric bikes are known as 'electrically assisted pedal cycles' (EAPCs). You might also hear e-bikes called pedelecs, which is another term for e-bikes where the power is activated by pedalling instead of by throttle.

Most e-bikes rely on lithium battery technology, and battery range varies enormously. Batteries can last for 25 to 100 miles, depending on the settings you ride with, if the battery is fully charged, and how powerful it is. Note that batteries do not recharge while cycling on most e-bikes—batteries are much more powerful than they used to be, so it's not necessary. Instead, you recharge the battery between rides.

Charging the battery can take from 3 to 10 hours, depending on the model. It's not advisable to run out of battery power as most e-bikes are hard work to pedal without power over anything but the easiest terrain.

How do I store an e-bike?

Similar to a regular bike, storing an e-bike will need careful consideration. It is best to store electric bikes in a warm and dry environment, so as to protect the battery. You may also want to be close to a charging point to make recharging easier.

As e-bikes are heavy, you will want to avoid carrying it up and downstairs. So if you live in a flat it is important to consider where you can store the bike safely and securely.

E-bikes can be parked on a regular bike stand so there's no need to worry when out and about.

Charging the battery can take from 3 to 10 hours, depending on the model. It's not advisable to run out of battery power because most e-bikes are difficult to pedal without power, especially over anything but the easiest terrain.

What are the rules on e-bikes in the UK?

E-bikes are legal in the UK, for those over the age of 14.

You do not need a licence to ride one and they don't need to be registered, taxed or insured.

For an e-bike to be legal in the UK it cannot provide power unless you are pedalling, otherwise, it would be an electric motorbike and require insurance and registration.

E-bikes are restricted by how fast they are allowed to go and can only go up to 15.5mph.

Electric bikes are also subject to the same road laws as other bikes. For example, it is legal to ride a bike or e-bike on cycle paths and shared-use paths, as well as on the road. However, it is not legal to ride a bike or e-bike on the pavement.

For further information relating to e-bikes please check out the links below:
[Read the government advice on electric bikes.](#)
[More information on e-bikes from Sustrans.](#)



Product Recalls

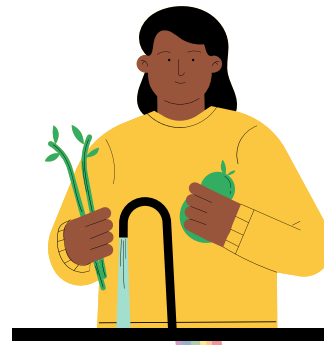
Save the date



Kellogg's is recalling its Kellogg's Corn Flakes Chocolate Flavour because they may contain small hard lumps of food which are unsafe to eat.

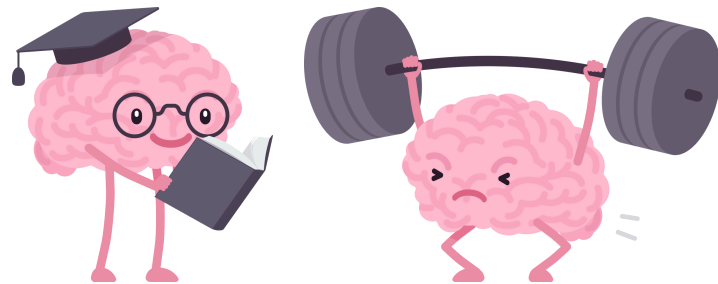
The affected cereal comes in 450g packs and has a best before date between December 6, 2024 and April 25, 2025.

The Food Standards Agency is warning anyone who has purchased the cereal not to eat it.



June is
PRIDE MONTH!

£1,200 GRANT FOR SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND



The UK Government offers a £1,200 grant for eligible state-funded schools and colleges in England to train a senior mental health lead. This initiative supports the development of a comprehensive approach to mental health and wellbeing within educational settings. The grant has been available since 2021 and is scheduled to end in December 2024. A new list of approved training providers has been released and can be found [here](#).

Key Details:

- **Eligibility:** State-funded schools and colleges receiving ESFA pre-16 revenue, high needs block, or 16 to 19 programme funding.
- **Training:** Covers attendance at a quality-assured course and hiring supply staff during training.

Who Can Apply:

Headteachers, deputy headteachers, senior leadership team members, or other suitable staff members.

For more information including how to apply and deadlines please click [here](#).

Letters Home / Letters home

Many letters home about trips are very neat, using justified text to insert random spaces between letters and words to make paragraphs line up perfectly with the left and right page margins. Some are beautifully crafted with lovely cursive fonts. Unfortunately, neither of these formats are helpful to schools in meeting their Public Sector Equality Duty or to other organisations who may be required to make reasonable adjustments to ensure disabled people are not excluded from services and don't receive less favourable treatment. The blending of letter shapes where an f looks like a g in cursive fonts and the randomness of spacing in justified text makes it much harder for people who rely on the shape of a word to read it i.e., those with visual disabilities, dyslexia etc. It's also estimated that somewhere between a fifth and a quarter of UK adults have a reading age of 11 or lower hindered by difficult fonts.

If issues like literacy, visual or processing disabilities, English as an Additional Language etc. are likely, schools and youth organisations should avoid fonts like Script or Comic Sans and features like justified text that makes important information harder to read. For government advice on accessible communication see section 6 of [Accessible communication formats - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and advice in [Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges - Digital accessibility standards - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Parental Consent

OEAP guide [4.3d Parental Consent and Informing Parents](#) has been updated. Parental consent is only valid if it's informed – if parents or carers understand what their child will do and how they will be cared for, especially the times when they will not be directly supervised by a member of school staff.

Everything in 4.3d that's relevant to a particular trip must be communicated explicitly to parents or carers so that they understand what they are consenting to. There will be letters, emails, app notifications, consent forms (incl. online), kit lists, parent meeting etc. It's never neatly in one document but school governors and boards of directors need to ensure there is a system in place to retain some evidence of the efforts made to inform parents. When parents were told something can matter as much as, and sometimes more than, what they were told, especially if activities are costly or children need to bring specialist equipment and parents are given very little notice. Increasingly, letters home sent via email or app don't have dates on them and the browser print page option or screenshots of an app will only contain timestamps of the day they were screenshot not the day they were communicated. Check your app or email archiving systems will allow retrieval of evidence for as long as it might be required. In the case of a personal injury claim on behalf of a child this might be until the injured child's **25th birthday**.

STAGER risk assessment

A successful off-site trip involves the right people in the right place, doing the right things at the right time. A visit leader should use facility or provider information about visiting or using their services and relevant generic risk assessments or standard operating procedures put in place by their own employer as prompts to consider the interplay of the STAGER variables (Staffing, Timing, Activities, Groupings, Environments & Remoteness) and how they significantly impact trip plans. When the visit is Category 2 (residential or adventurous activities), what's decided must be written down. There are very few legal requirements for a written RA. It must identify:

- significant hazards (sources of potential harm e.g., extended exposure to the sun),
- significant risks associated with the hazard (the likely outcomes of exposure e.g., heat exhaustion, sunburn),
- control measures that will prevent exposure to the hazard or reduce the risk of harmful outcomes (e.g., slip, slop, slap, seek, slide)
- the competent person who completed it (usually the name of the visit leader because they will be responsible for its implementation)
- the date completed to evidence that the employer considers their RA is "suitable & sufficient" (i.e., the date it was decided that the RA reflected all the visit-specific plans necessary).

The **STAGER format** includes 4 & 5 from the list above but not 1-3, so a STAGER doesn't replace generic risk assessment templates (typically the All Visits, Transport by Road, & Accommodation RAs for a residential). It's supplemental, so there's space to tick or reference the generics used in the top section. Reading the generic RA templates, making visit-specific plans, and writing the main points in just one STAGER for upload online replaces the need to write those notes on all those different generic templates for upload. The review date for a risk assessment of a visit should be shortly after the event and before the next one.

Supervision

The OEAP has clarified definitions of direct, indirect & remote supervision. Read the long version in [4.2a Group Management and Supervision](#). Read the short version in a case study in [4.2d Indirect Supervision of Younger Children](#).

Ensure that communication with parents & carers about what will happen on a trip uses the OEAP definitions of supervision, gives examples, invites questions, and give details on how to ask them e.g., an email address, app info., or telephone number. Disputes after, even very minor incidents on trips, suggest that parents don't understand what "indirect" or "remote" means and later claim their consent is invalid because they didn't really understand what would happen and wouldn't have agreed to it if they had.



If you have any questions regarding visits please e-mail penny.gosling@kymallanhsc.co.uk



Driving declaration

It's come to our attention that schools are using our Model Driving Declaration with staff and volunteers who will then be covered by an occasional business use motor insurance policy held by the school. It's only meant for use with drivers who are covered by their own private motor insurance policies and has been updated to reflect this.

If wording on motoring convictions, medical, health, and other exclusions in the declaration doesn't match with the specific wording in your school motor insurance policy, the form will not be suitable and using it risks permitting drivers to drive under the school policy who turn out to be excluded from cover.

A new Example Driving Declaration has been added to the KAHub and can be downloaded using the link above to help schools develop a more suitable driving declaration of their own that reflects the terms and exclusions of their own occasional business use school motor insurance policies.

Prevent – new guidance

Depending on the circumstances, safeguarding leads may also seek to determine whether abusive and discriminatory views expressed or shared by pupils are indicative of a broader vulnerability, and consider the appropriateness of engaging with support through the Prevent programme. Teachers and other staff are trusted to exercise their professional judgment about whether a referral is appropriate, as they do for all other safeguarding risks. Further training and increased discussion on radicalisation will assist in addressing this issue, and advice and guidance are available on [Educate Against Hate](#) and GOV.UK to support safeguarding leads in making these decisions.

Schools should also be mindful of their legal duties regarding political impartiality and should always avoid working with organisations that promote anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim, or any other discriminatory views. The Department for Education has published clear and comprehensive guidance to help those working with and in schools better understand legal duties on political impartiality. The guidance can be found [here](#).



Social Media: "FINSTAS"

"Finsta" is short for "fake Instagram." Instagram accounts are often curated to look "picture perfect," generally showing only the best parts of life. In recent years, younger people have become increasingly aware of this and as a result, it has become increasingly popular for people to create "finstas." A finsta is a more relaxed and private Instagram account. It can serve as a hidden identity or a second account that only close friends, mutuals* and family can see. On a finsta, users upload more relaxed and candid posts. It can be any social media platform such as Facebook or TikTok, but Instagram is the most popular to have a fake second account.

Content on a finsta can include:

1. **Personal Thoughts and Feelings:** Users often share more intimate or personal posts that they might not feel comfortable sharing with a larger audience.
2. **Humorous or Silly Content:** Posts that are more casual, goofy, or humorous, which may not align with the curated image on their main account.
3. **Unfiltered Opinions:** Honest or unfiltered opinions that they might hesitate to share publicly.
4. **Daily Life Updates:** More mundane, day-to-day updates that they want to share with close friends rather than the broader audience of their main account.

*Mutuals = A term used usually for an online friend with a common interest, that you support by following each other, liking and sharing their content.

DfE - Use of mobile phones in Schools

2024
guidance



In February 2024, the Department of Education issued new guidelines on mobile phone use in schools, aiming to balance educational benefits with reducing distractions. Key points include:

1. **Controlled Use:** Phones can be used during lessons only for educational purposes.
2. **Phone-Free Zones:** Certain areas like classrooms and libraries should be phone-free to maintain focus.
3. **Parental Involvement:** Schools should work with parents to set consistent phone usage boundaries.
4. **Digital Well-being Education:** Schools are encouraged to teach students about responsible phone use and digital safety.
5. **Emergency Exceptions:** Clear protocols should be established for phone use in emergencies.

The Department of Education's new guidelines comes in response to growing evidence linking excessive mobile phone use with decreased academic performance and increased anxiety among students. By implementing these measures, the Department aims to foster an environment conducive to learning while also teaching students to use technology responsibly.

KAHSC Audits

As we continue to prioritise your safety and compliance, we also strive to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of our services. With this in mind, we are announcing an important update to our cancellation policy for health and safety audits.

Introducing a New Cancellation Fee

Effective immediately, any cancellations of audits made within four weeks of the agreed date will incur a cancellation fee of £150. This policy change is a necessary step to manage our resources more effectively and to accommodate the high demand for our services. Our team invests a substantial amount of time in preparation for each audit. As many of you know, we are currently booked up until 2025, and this new policy will help us maintain the highest standards of service for all.

We understand that circumstances can change unexpectedly. To avoid incurring the cancellation fee, we encourage you to review your schedules carefully and inform us as early as possible if you need to reschedule or cancel your audit. This will allow us to adjust our schedules accordingly and possibly accommodate other clients who are in urgent need of our services.

Finally, it is crucial that schools prepare in advance for their health and safety audit. Information on what is required on the day is sent out well in advance and appropriate preparation will save the auditor and school significant time on the day.

KAHSC training and additional services

For more information on the courses we have available please visit buytickets.at/kaahsc. We recommend you save this to your online bookmarks to keep track of our available open training sessions.

You can pay when you book or you can pay later, we just ask that, where possible, payments are made before the training takes place.

- ✓ Simple booking process
- ✓ Pay online, by BACS or cheque
- ✓ Quick links to our live webinars
- ✓ More accurate booking information
- ✓ See all our available courses at a glance
- ✓ Waiting list for fully booked courses

NEW

DSL Briefing

Recording of the recent DSL briefing covering changes to Working Together 2023 & Information sharing guidance for practitioners 2024 is now available for just £20 + VAT

Data Protection

Via Teams
Tuesday 2nd July 9:30 - 12:30

Fire Warden

Carlisle/Wigton Area
Tuesday 24th September 9:30 - 12:30

Crooklands, Kendal
Wednesday 25th September 9:30 - 12:30

SCR Webinar

We held two SCR webinars in March which are now available to purchase as a recording for just £40 + VAT.

Please contact courtney.allan@kymallanhsc.co.uk to purchase a download.

To book or for more information on any in-house training sessions please contact courtney.allan@kymallanhsc.co.uk

Full day EVC

Carlisle/Wigton Area
Wednesday 9th October 9:30 - 3:30

Crooklands, Kendal
Thursday 10th October 9:30 - 3:30

EVC Refresher

Via Zoom
Tuesday 22nd October 9:30 - 12:30

2 day IOSH Safety & Health Management in Education

Carlisle/Wigton Area
Tuesday 12th & 19th November
9:30 - 4:30

Crooklands, Kendal
Tuesday 26th November & 3rd December
9:30 - 4:30

In house:

- Safeguarding Level 1
- Online Safety
- Work at Height
- Risk Assessments
- Wellbeing
- Manual Handling
- Single Central Record
- DSE
- Visit Management

KAHSC training and additional services

Take advantage of our support



Policies

We understand that you are all under a great deal of pressure and that it is difficult to keep up with changes to policies and procedures. If you are unsure about the status of your policies and procedures and are using our models, then we can update or revise them for **FREE**. Our main policies can be found on the right.

If you would like to take up this service, please send your policies to courtney.allan@kymallanhsc.co.uk

Fire Risk Assessments

If you have not recently had a Fire Risk Assessment or would like a review of your current FRA please feel free to get in touch with courtney.allan@kymallanhsc.co.uk who can arrange for a risk assessment to be undertaken from just £150 + VAT.

Health and Safety Audits

If you are a Community or Voluntary Controlled School and are due an LA Health & Safety Audit, we can carry out a 'Pre-LA Audit' to help you get prepared. This service is free to subscribing schools. Please contact laura.sharp@kymallanhsc.co.uk for more information.

Single Central Record

We can check and amend your SCR for a small fee of £55 + VAT to make sure you are compliant with the most up to date guidance. Please contact kym@kymallanhsc.co.uk for more information.

Anti-fraud V1

Attendance V1

Behaviour V21

Charging and remissions V10

Child on child abuse V8

Code of conduct V12

Complaints procedures V4

Data Protection V21

Health and Safety

Intimate care and toileting V18

Online Safety V8

Overarching Safeguarding V4

Positive handling Procedures V16

Safe Recruitment V17

Suspension and Exclusion V5

AND MORE!