

DIARY DATES

Red Nose Day

Friday 24 March 2017

Autism Awareness Week

Monday 27 March 2017 –

Friday 31 March 2017

ATT Safeguarding Conference

Thursday 30 March 2017

Autism Awareness Day

Sunday 2 April 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

- World Autism Awareness Week
- Number of alleged child sex offences committed by other children almost doubles
- Teachers 'consider referring children to anti-badger-cull marches to Prevent programme'
- Transgender teenager sues former school that told him 'it was just a phase'
- Disrespect NoBody Campaign
- Unhealthy relationships highlighted in new ChildLine Campaign
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

World Autism Awareness Week at School 2017

From Monday 27 March to Sunday 2 April, there are loads of ways to get involved in 2017's World Autism Awareness Week at School. Teach your students about autism, raise awareness for autistic people and spread the word with resources from The National Autistic Society like lesson plans, activities and idea packs.

Why raise awareness of autism in your academy?

At least 1 in 100 people in the UK have autism, so there are autistic people at your academy, who you see every day. We know that indifference and hostility towards autistic people and their families leads to social isolation, mental illness and unhappy lives. But we also know that helping young people and teachers to understand autism as they grow up will equip them to accept and empathise with autistic people.

How teachers and students can get involved

Autism Awareness Week encourages teachers and students to:

- Learn about autism in fun, imaginative lessons, activities and assemblies that are level-specific
- Plan and take part in amazing fundraising activities
- Help spread the word about why it's so important to understand and accept autism

All of the resources that are mentioned in this article can be found on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#), under the name WAAW. Please can you contact Amy Hodgkins on a.hodgkins@academytransformation.co.uk to inform us of what your academy is doing to celebrate World Autism Awareness Week at School 2017.



Disrespect NoBody Campaign

The Home Office has recently launched its 'Disrespect NoBody' Campaign, aimed at preventing boys and girls aged between 12 and 18 years-old from becoming perpetrators and victims of abusive relationships.

The advertising for this has been shown during television shows such as Hollyoaks, the Brit Awards, Big Bang Theory and online through YouTube and Snapchat.

Young people are being directed to the 'Disrespect NoBody' website which can be found by following this [link](#).

There are a number of resources, including posters and lesson plans, to help schools develop the key ideas of consent and sexting. These resources also cover LGBT relationships.

The 'Disrespect NoBody' campaign runs until the end of March.

The resources mentioned can be found on our [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#).

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Working Together to Safeguard Children

The Government have recently issued a standard definition of Child Sexual Exploitation. Although there have been definitions in the past, there was not one agreed definition, and many felt it did not reflect the growth of the internet. 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' has already been revised to account for the new definition (see page 93).

To download the full [Child Sexual Exploitation – Definition and a guide for practitioners](#) document, please follow this link.

To download the updated [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) (WTSC), please follow this link.

PLEASE NOTE: The front cover of WTSC document states – March 2015, but the copyright statement on the back states 2017.

Keeping Teachers Safe Online

In an age where social media dominates the way we communicate, it's becoming even more difficult for teachers to separate their professional life from their personal one. With one single online search, tenacious students are able to uncover highly personal information about their teachers and share it with their classmates at a click of a button.

ATT are not discouraging the use of social media, but ensuring that you are taking the right safety precautions for knowing exactly who can see your photos, status updates or likes will help you stay safe.

Virtual College has published a free guide that provides all the help you will need to stay safe online.

This guide can be found on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#), under the name 'February 2017 – Keeping Teachers Safe Online'.

Number of alleged child sex offences committed by other children almost doubles

The number of children being investigated by police for sexual offences has almost doubled in the last four years. Children potentially face being criminalised for committing sex offences against other youngsters, an investigation found, with a rise in the use of smartphones thought to be a contributing factor. Last year there were 9,290 reports of such cases to forces in England and Wales, a jump of 78% compared to 2013, according to figures obtained by Barnardo's.

A spokesman for Barnardo's said: "Too often children displaying harmful sexual behaviour are treated as 'mini sex offenders'."

"Although public protection should always remain the primary driver when dealing with cases of harmful sexual behaviour young offenders should be treated as children first and offenders second."

In total, there were 32,452 reports to police of alleged sexual offences by children on other children over the four year period, an average of more than 20 every day. The figures relate to instances where the alleged perpetrator and victim are both aged under 18.

For the full article from The Telegraph, please follow this [link](#).

Transgender teenager sues former school that told him it was 'just a phase'

Under the 2010 Equality Act, it is unlawful for a school to treat pupils less favourably because of gender reassignment.

A transgender teenager is suing his former school for discrimination after they refused to let him wear a boy's uniform.

The 16-year-old, who has been given the assumed name Aidan, was born female and attended Hereford Cathedral School in Herefordshire. He has accused staff at the school for not taking him seriously, after they reportedly told him his wish to be male was a 'phase' and that he was 'attention seeking'.

This is despite the boy receiving support from a family GP as he began his transition. He is now taking legal action against the school under the 2010 Equality Act. His mother described the school's treatment of Aidan as 'appalling'.

"They made my child out to be a freak and someone who would contaminate other students," she told the BBC.

In a letter to the school's Chair of Governors, Aidan's mother said she had no choice but to remove her son after being told the school was 'inadequately prepared to accommodate Aidan's needs and give him the high level of support and pastoral care that he deserves'.

For the full article from the Independent, please follow this [link](#).

Teachers 'consider referring children on anti-badger-cull marches to Prevent Programme', MPs claims

The TES is reporting that the fear of Ofsted leaves teachers searching for excuses to refer pupils to anti-extremism programme. Conservative MP Lucy Allan, who is also a school Governor, said teachers are sitting around thinking up scenarios which might justify referring a pupil. Children who have been taken on anti-badger-cull marches or Fathers4Justice demonstrations are being suggested for referral, Ms Allen warned.

Leading a Westminster Hall debate on the topic, Ms Allan said: "Prevent has moved, under the 2015 Act, from a cooperative and voluntary act of community into a statutory duty, and I think therein lies the problem – the statutory duty."

"Because a failure to meet a statutory duty can have negative consequences, for example, for teachers in schools where Ofsted will assess whether the duty has been met and a grading will be delivered with the achievement of complying with this statutory duty."

She added: "And as a school Governor, I have seen that there is an incentive to make referrals under Prevent, because if you don't there's a sense that you might get into trouble, or that might have a negative impact on your school, or as a teacher on your career."

This has resulted in an 'exponential increase' in the number of referrals, with one child a week under 10 being reported, MPs heard.

Unhealthy relationships highlighted in new ChildLine campaign #ListenToYourSelfie

#ListenToYourSelfie helps young people spot the signs of online abuse and grooming. As more and more young people are using apps and webcams, ChildLine has seen a rise in contacts about online sexual abuse.

New figures from ChildLine show:

- The number of counselling sessions for online sexual abuse worries rose last year (2015-16) by 24% to 3,716
- Most of the young people were aged 12-15 and almost two-thirds were girls
- 1 in 8 of the sessions related specifically to grooming, an increase of 21%

Recognising the signs of grooming

The internet is increasingly used as a gateway by offenders to commit crimes including sexual assaults, sexual exploitation and grooming. To tackle this issue, ChildLine is launching a new campaign, #ListenToYourSelfie aimed at helping young people recognise the signs of grooming and unhealthy relationships, both online and offline.

Funded by BBC Children in Need, the campaign features two films where selfies come to life and question a situation. [The Game](#) focuses on a same-sex online grooming scenario and [The Party](#) highlights peer-to-peer sexual pressure and grooming.

For more information please visit, [ChildLine](#) or [NSPCC](#). Posters for this campaign can be found on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#).