

1. Secondary school staff get mental health 'first aid' training

November 2017

From June 2017, teachers in secondary schools around the country will take part in a new training programme to help them identify and respond to early signs of mental health issues in children. The programme, delivered by the social enterprise Mental Health First Aid, will start with 1,000 staff and extend in years 2 and 3 to cover every secondary school in England. They will receive practical advice on how to deal with issues such as depression and anxiety, suicide and psychosis, self-harm, and eating disorders. They will also be invited to become 'first aid champions', sharing their knowledge and experiences across schools and communities to raise awareness and break down stigma and discrimination.

Link: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secondary-school-staff-get-mental-health-first-aid-training?utm_campaign=310207_June%20DH%20Monthly&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Department%20of%20Health&dm_i=3ZQO,6NCV,26E4C2,N763,1

2. Bullying which occurs outside school premises

School staff members have the power to discipline pupils for misbehaving outside the school premises. Sections 90 and 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 say that a school's disciplinary powers can be used to address pupils' conduct when they are not on school premises and are not under the lawful control or charge of a member of school staff, but only if it would be reasonable for the school to regulate pupils' behaviour in those circumstances. This may include bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises, such as on school or public transport, outside the local shops, or in a town or village centre.

Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and acted on. The headteacher should also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police or anti-social behaviour coordinator in their local authority of the action taken against a pupil. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed.

While school staff members have the power to discipline pupils for bullying that occurs outside school, they can only impose the disciplinary sanction and implement that sanction on the school premises or when the pupil is under the lawful control of school staff, for instance on a school trip.

Link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/623895/Preventing_and_tackling_bullying_advice.pdf

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3. Schools should better support pupils in learning how to develop safe, respectful personal relationships

Schools do not allocate enough time or importance to providing learning experiences and support for pupils to develop safe, respectful personal relationships. A report found that the content and delivery of this area of personal and social education varies too widely in schools across Wales. In particular, schools do not prepare pupils well enough to live in a diverse society e.g. by teaching them about forms of violence against women such as FGM and honour-based violence

Link: <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/news/schools-should-better-support-pupils-learning-how-develop-safe-respectful-personal>

4. Tracking child trafficking cases: what we've learnt

Findings from a small-scale study of cases involving child trafficking concerns The study looks at what we can learn from cases where Family Court Advisers (FCAs) had identified concerns about trafficking. This is part of their work to collate learning around the vulnerabilities for children in these situations and develop a unified approach to address the risks. The study looked at 82 cases identified by FCAs, concerning 97 subject children. 70% of children in the sample were female and there were additional concerns about CSE for 44% of children. Two key findings from the study are that:

- suspected cases of child trafficking can come to Cafcass via private law applications
- there are a number of children identified as potential victims of both CSE and trafficking.

Link: <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2017/june/tracking-child-trafficking-cases-what-we%E2%80%99ve-learnt.aspx>

5. HOW YOU LOOK - LOOKING "NORMAL"

There can be a lot of pressure to look a certain way and fit in with everyone else. And sometimes we can be hurt or affected by what others think and say. In films, music videos and magazines everyone seems to look a certain way and have perfect skin. But it's not like that in real life. You don't have to look far to see that everyone around you is different in some way. But it's normal to worry.

You might be feeling:

- unhappy about your body shape
- embarrassed about pimples
- awkward about wearing glasses or braces
- as though your clothes don't suit you
- unhappy about your hair or skin colour
- like your breasts are the wrong size
- like your penis or vagina look wrong.

Link: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/you-your-body/my-body/how-you-look/>