



Safeguarding,  
Health and Safety  
Consultants

# The Safety Scene

Making Sense of Safeguarding



## THIS ISSUE:

Nuts about  
Christmas

EU Travel

NSPCC

Slang Terms &  
VR Gaming

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## Welcome to the Safety Scene Autumn 2024

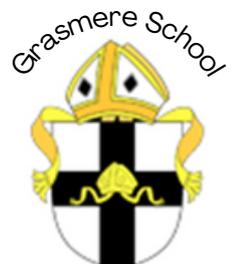
From all of us at KATHSC have a  
*Merry Christmas & Happy  
New Year*

Kym, the elf, here to tell  
you all about Elf & Safety



### Star Performers

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:



## IN COURT & NOTABLE INCIDENTS

### Council Fined After Finger Loss

A local authority was sentenced after a worker lost his right index finger to a circular bench saw in June, 2022, while working in the design and technology department at The Forest School in Horsham. At 27, he was cutting wood for a lesson when he felt pain and saw his finger lying on the bench and immediately turned off the machine.

A HSE investigation found that West Sussex County Council failed to ensure the technician received proper training for the saw, despite his prior use. The Council pleaded guilty in July 2024 to breaching Regulation 9 of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and was fined £16,000, plus £4,294.60 in costs and a £190 victim surcharge. HSE inspector Russell Beckett stated that adequate training could have prevented the incident.



The machine being operated by the technician  
[source](#)

### Meta Introduces New Safeguards Against Sextortion

Meta (the overarching company for many social media sites) has announced new measures to combat the rising cases of sextortion, which saw a 54% increase in 2023, alongside a 300% rise in online enticement reports among teenagers. To prevent scammers from using follower lists for blackmail, accounts suspected of sextortion will be restricted from viewing these lists. Additionally, Meta is introducing features to prevent screenshots and screen recordings on Instagram DMs and Messenger, limiting access to 'once' or 'allow replay' images on web versions. New safety notices will warn young users about chatting with people from different countries, complementing Instagram's enhanced settings for accounts under 18.

Meta is launching a campaign to help teens and parents recognize sextortion scams, supported by [NCMEC](#) and [Thorn](#). The initiative aims to educate teenagers about sextortion through videos. Influencers and parent creators will share content on Instagram to engage with both young people and their parents.

Sextortion, or "webcam blackmail," involves intimate images being used for financial exploitation. It typically begins with trust-building through social media or dating platforms, where blackmailers may impersonate others to persuade victims into sharing intimate content. This content is then used to extort money or more explicit material, and can be perpetrated by individuals or organised criminal groups.

Source: [SWGFL](#)

For any queries regarding online safety please contact Penny at [penny.gosling@kymallanhsc.co.uk](mailto:penny.gosling@kymallanhsc.co.uk)



## Nuts About Christmas

### What Schools Can Learn from Research on Nuts on Planes

In a recent Sky News discussion, research highlighted that while the risk of allergic reactions to airborne nuts on planes is low, residue on surfaces can pose a danger. Airlines are advised to allow passengers with nut allergies to board early so that they can wipe down their seat area!

This topic parallels discussions in schools about being "nut free". Allergy clinicians argue that the term is misleading; it suggests that nut allergies are more dangerous than others. Instead, schools should focus on being "allergen aware", as guaranteeing a "nut free" environment is nearly impossible and may lead to complacency about other allergens or less vigilant about checking ingredients' labels. Schools should continue to discourage people from bringing nuts into school.

### New Allergy and Anaphylaxis Training for School Staff

The 'Allergy Team' have updated their CPD-accredited allergy and anaphylaxis training making it the most comprehensive course available for school staff. Their online training is packed with the best advice and tips based on their work with schools to reduce the chances of an allergic reaction happening, and ensuring staff know how to respond confidently if one does. The training can be found at <https://theallergyteam.com/schools-training/>

By implementing their training, you'll ensure that allergy awareness is part of safeguarding in your school, ultimately creating a safer and more inclusive environment for your pupils. If you have any allergen queries, please email [penny.gosling@kymallanhsc.co.uk](mailto:penny.gosling@kymallanhsc.co.uk).

# EU Travel Checklist



## Planning a school trip to the EU? Here's what you need to know

Why did the snowman call for a safety meeting?

He was tired of getting melted under pressure



The new EU border control system launched in **November**. Here's what changed:

- The Entry/Exit System (EES) will be used to register biometric data of visitors entering Europe.
- Using electronic booths at the EU border, similar to ones in airports, the EES will electronically collect the date and place of entry/exit from the EU, removing the need for manual passport stamps.
- The machines will be located at the EU border, including the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel terminal.

Make sure you or your tour operator have allowed extra time to get through this process.



Once the EES is up and running, a new travel permit will be introduced for non-EU passport holders travelling in Europe.

- The European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) is an online visa waiver scheme for UK citizens.
- Once in place, all British passport holders, including children, will need to apply online for permission to enter the Schengen area.
- The cost of the ETIAS is €7 for adults and free for under-18's and will be valid for 3 years.
- The ETIAS is expected to be in place from May 2025 (still to be confirmed) with a six-month transitional period followed by a six-month grace period (also to be confirmed).

These rules apply when entering 25 EU countries (all member states except Cyprus & Ireland) and 4 non-EU countries (Iceland, Switzerland, Norway and Lichtenstein). They do not apply to school trips to Ireland because the UK currently maintains a Common Travel Area with Ireland.

If you have any school trip queries, please e-mail:  
[penny.gosling@kymallanhsc.co.uk](mailto:penny.gosling@kymallanhsc.co.uk) / [kym@kymallanhsc.co.uk](mailto:kym@kymallanhsc.co.uk)

## Product Recalls

## Save the date



### Coco Melon JJ

#### Interactive Learning Dolls

The product presents a risk of choking as it has been identified that if a child presses the sewn seams of the doll with sufficient force, the seams could give way, providing the child with access to the internal stuffing material. Should the child chew or swallow the stuffing material, they may choke.

The product does not meet the requirements of the Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011.

Affected consumers are advised to stop using the product immediately and return it to the retailer that they purchased from for a full refund.

Item number  
96112



For more information  
please follow this link



Safer  
Internet  
Day 2025 | Tuesday  
11 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk



## SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE - NSPCC

'Speak Out Stay Safe' is a safeguarding programme consisting of assemblies and workshops, for children aged 5-11 years-old. It is available to all primary schools in the UK and Channel Islands. Their virtual assemblies, which feature Ant and Dec, support children to feel empowered - knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

With the help of their mascot, Buddy the speech bubble, children will know they have the right to:

- speak out and be taken seriously
- be kept safe
- get help when they need it.

FIND ALL  
INFO HERE



WHAT CAN  
BE DONE AT  
HOME

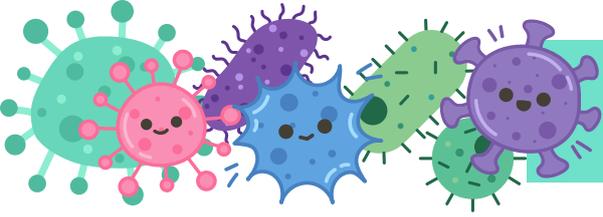


YOUTUBE  
VIDEO



NSPCC  
LEARNING





# E. Coli in Playdough

## WHAT IS E. COLI?

E. Coli is a type of bacteria that can be found in the intestines of humans and animals. While most strains are harmless, some can cause severe foodborne illness. It is especially dangerous for very young or very old people.

Contamination often occurs through undercooked food, unpasteurized dairy products, or contaminated water.

## CAN I MAKE PLAYDOUGH WITH ALTERNATE FLOUR?

Unfortunately, this applies to all flours including rice, wheat, gram (chickpea), cornflour etc

## WHAT IF I HEAT-TREAT THE FLOUR?

PACEY has a recipe for cooked playdough. However, the site also explains that it could be difficult and/or dangerous in a fan oven if a lot of dust is created. Flour dust in the atmosphere is highly explosive if it comes into contact with a spark.



**Carol singers are not a health and safety risk. Don't blame us if they don't sound good!**



## Whisper - Anonymous Reporting Tool

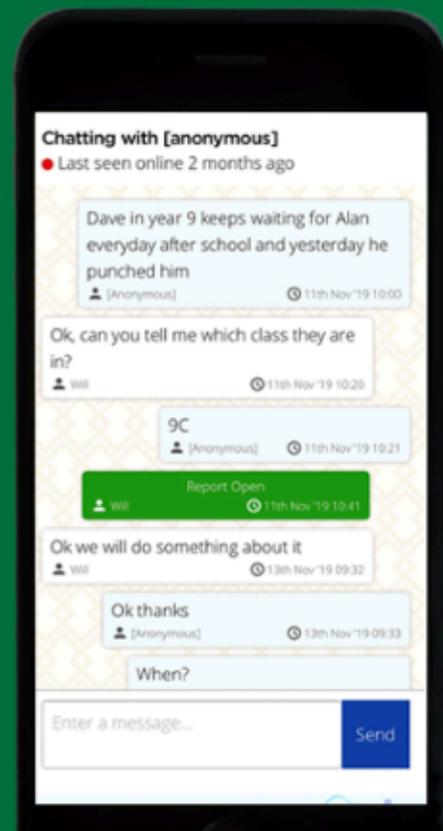
Anonymous reporting allows those in need to speak to a trusted member of staff, with safety and security in mind.

Whisper is an anonymous reporting avenue that helps your community to effectively report issues to you. Through Whisper, staff can become the first port of call and the tool can provide a supportive process to aid other safeguarding practices.

Whisper comes with a custom button, link or code for your school website or newsletter, and a unique dedicated mobile number for SMS reporting.

**More about Whisper**

[CLICK HERE](#)

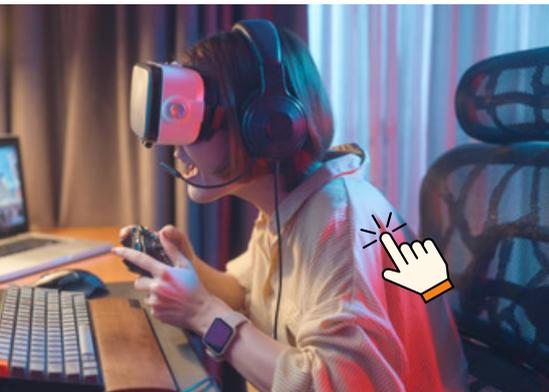


# New Synthetic Media Hub

SWGfL has launched a [Synthetic Media Hub](#) to provide advice and support on the growing prevalence of AI-generated content, or "deepfakes". The hub offers tools and information about synthetic media, its technology, and support for those affected by harmful content. It aims to enhance understanding, promote safer online practices, and improve digital literacy and critical thinking in communities.

**Resources for Support** - The Hub offers tailored information for adults, schools, and parents on managing synthetic media, discussing privacy and safeguarding, and reporting harmful content. It explains resources like Report Harmful Content and the Revenge Porn Helpline.

**Guidance for Teachers** - Recognising the challenges of synthetic media in education, the Hub outlines how teachers can enhance their safeguarding practices and promote digital literacy. It provides advice on using services like [ProjectEVOLVE](#) to help students and educators differentiate between real and synthetic content.



## VR Gaming



As Christmas holidays are coming in thick and fast, more young people will be using the new Virtual Reality (VR) Gaming technology.

An Ofcom survey describes these experiences as co-creative and highly social. With any form of technology, it is important to know exactly what experience the young people are having, and the benefits and considerations to consider, ensuring they stay safe online.

Virtual Reality (VR) gaming immerses players in a 3D, 360° virtual environment, providing an experience that feels like entering a new world. Key components include VR headsets, which block out the real world; motion controllers, which allow interaction; and VR-compatible games designed for immersive experiences.

**Pros of VR Gaming:** VR gaming serves as a virtual playground, enabling social interaction and physical activity through games that encourage movement, like football and skiing. It also promotes creativity and education, allowing players to explore topics like marine life and space.

**Considerations for Safe Use:** Despite its benefits, VR gaming has safety considerations. It's important to monitor usage, as prolonged play can cause headaches and nausea. Regular breaks should be encouraged. Additionally, caregivers should check age ratings for games, ensure safe online interactions, and understand communication features within VR. If issues arise, reporting routes are available for various VR platforms.

## Safer Internet Day 2025

TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY



TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS SAFE FROM SCAMS ONLINE

We've all received an email with a suspicious link, a text claiming to be from our bank, or even seen a pop-up telling us we have been a lucky winner – but scams take many forms and can target anyone, including young people. This Safer Internet Day we're all starting a conversation about how to spot, respond to and report scams of all types online.

Young people have said how scammers are targeting the platforms they know and love, tricking them to share items and currency in games, or luring them with social media giveaways and ads which promise anything from gig tickets or exam papers to cryptocurrency.

UK Safer Internet Centre's campaign for Safer Internet Day 2025 will uncover the tricks and techniques used to target you, your children and your money.

Keep updated with [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) for more information on how your school can get involved next year!



## Winter Warriors: Mastering Safety in the Cold

**Snow & Ice Removal:** Keep pathways and high traffic areas clear.

**Inspect Roof & Gutters:** Check for damage, clean gutters to prevent ice build-up.

**Emergency Equipment Check:** Test alarms, sprinklers, and emergency lighting.



**Inspect Heating Systems:** Regularly check and maintain heating systems for efficiency. Clean or replace filters as needed.

**Pest Control:** Seal cracks to prevent pest entry.

**Prevent Freezing Pipes:** Insulate pipes and get to know shut-off valve locations. Consider letting faucets drip during extremely cold nights to prevent freezing.

**Outdoor Areas:** Remove debris from gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams. Trim tree branches that could potentially fall due to heavy snow or ice. Secure outdoor items, and use salt/sand for safety.

**Communicate Safety Procedures:** Educate staff on winter safety protocols and the need to report maintenance issues promptly.

## Festive Flair: Time to Decorate!

**Embracing the Christmas spirit often involves festive decorating, but it's crucial to stay safe. To ensure your celebrations remain joyful, follow these tips:**

- Keep poisonous plants like mistletoe and holly berries away from children.
- Use a labelled "fire-resistant" artificial tree or, if using a real tree, cut off about 2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption and water regularly.
- Position the tree away from heat sources and doorways.
- Avoid breakable ornaments or ones with small, easily detachable parts on lower branches where small children can reach them.
- Use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors. Replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- Follow package instructions for plug safety.
- Never nail, tack or stress wiring when hanging lights and keep plugs elevated to avoid contact with water.
- Turn off lights before leaving.
- Do not hang decorations from light fittings, a sturdy strung washing line is a good alternative.

# Chilly Check: Spotting Signs of Chill in Children



- 1. Irritability or Fussiness** - A child may become cranky or difficult to manage when they're uncomfortable in the cold.
- 2. Loss of Coordination** - Difficulty in movement or clumsiness can indicate muscle stiffness in the cold.
- 3. Drowsiness or Sleepiness** - If a child seems unusually tired or is nodding off, it may be a response to cold stress.
- 4. Decreased Appetite** - A child may show less interest in eating if they are too cold, as their body is prioritising warmth.
- 5. Sweating** - If a child is overdressed or active in the cold, they may sweat, which can lead to a rapid loss of body heat when they stop moving.

## ★ ★ ★ The Show **MUST** Go On: Safety First

Here are some Risk Assessments, Guides & Models which you may find useful if you're putting on an end of year extravaganza



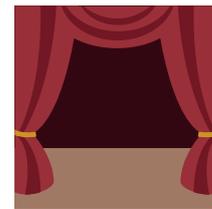
[Hall Capacity Calculation Sheet](#)

[Performance / Event Evacuation Plan Model](#)



[G41: Managing Performance & Events](#)

[Stage Use - RA](#)



[Camera & Video Use - Parents Guide](#)

**What's Santa's favourite exercise for health and safety?**  
Sleigh squats - he needs to stay fit for all that gift lifting



## 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 + VAT. 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 Summer 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/kahsc](https://buytickets.at/kahsc). 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.

### Safe Recruitment

Greenhill Hotel, Wigton

Thursday 16th January 9:30 - 4:30

Lane Farm, Kendal

Thursday 23rd January 9:30 - 4:30



### Visit Training webinar

how to reduce workload by creating & implementing Standard Operating Procedures webinar via [Zoom](#)

Tuesday 28th January 3:30 - 5:00

### Health and Safety Essentials for Site Managers

Lane Farm, Kendal

Tuesday 4th February 9:30 - 4:30

Greenhill Hotel, Wigton

Thursday 6th February 9:30 - 4:30

### SCR Webinar

Online, Zoom

Tuesday 4th February 9:30 - 11:30

### Health and Safety Essentials for SLT/Administrators

Lane Farm, Kendal

Wednesday 19th March 9:30 - 4:30

Greenhill Hotel, Wigton

Wednesday 26th March 9:30 - 4:30

### 2 day IOSH Safety & Health Management in Education

Greenhill Hotel, Wigton

Tuesday 11th & 18th March 9:30 - 4:30

Lane Farm, Kendal

Thursday 20th & 27th March 9:30 - 4:30

### 1 day IOSH Safety & Health Management in Education refresher

Greenhill Hotel, Wigton

Thursday 13th February 9:30 - 4:30

Lane Farm, Kendal

Thursday 27th February 9:30 - 4:30

### 1 day IOSH Managing Occupational Health and Wellbeing

Penrith Area

Tuesday 25th February 9:30 - 4:30

### Health and Safety Essentials for Governors

Penrith area

Wednesday 12th March 6:00 - 8:00

Online, Zoom

Thursday 13th March 2:00 - 4:00

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:courtney.allan@kymallanhsc.co.uk) who can arrange for a risk assessment to be undertaken from just £150 + VAT.

### Health and Safety Audit Support

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 Support' to help you get prepared. This service is free to subscribing schools. Please contact [laura.sharp@kymallanhsc.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:kym@kymallanhsc.co.uk) for more information.



Anti-fraud

Attendance

Behaviour

Charging and remissions

Child on Child abuse

Code of conduct

Complaints procedures

Data Protection

Health and Safety

Intimate care and toileting

Online Safety

Overarching Safeguarding

Positive handling Procedures

Safe Recruitment

Suspension and Exclusion

**AND MORE!**



#### Why did Santa go to therapy?

He had too many "elf" issues to sort out before Christmas!