

# SAFEGUARDING & PREVENT NEWSLETTER

November 2023



## NEW SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Serco Skills & Training Services (STS) has a new safeguarding team, new contact number and revised safeguarding policy.

 [safeguarding.educ@serco.com](mailto:safeguarding.educ@serco.com)

**0121 345 6455**

available between 08:30 and 16:30 with option to leave a voice message. Police non-emergency (101), emergency services - immediate risk (999).



Safeguarding Policy - <https://www.serco-ese.com/serco-education/policies-statements>

## MEET THE TEAM

- Designated Safeguarding Lead - Dean Hooton
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead - Jo Winwood
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead - Jenn Palmer
- Designated Safeguarding Officer - Mike Hampton
- Designated Safeguarding Officer - Jo Wood
- Designated Safeguarding Officer - Rob Matts



**DEAN HOOTON**



**JO WINWOOD**



**JENN PALMER**



**MIKE HAMPTON**



**JO WOOD**



**ROB MATTS**

## PREVENT POLICY

Our PREVENT Policy and Risk register have been re-written and are currently going through quality assurance, we will provide an update in the December newsletter.

**Keeping Children Safe in Education KCSIE** was updated in September 2023 here is a link to the full update [Keeping children safe in education 2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

## This month's newsletter focus is on the current conflict in Israel, to help your understanding and how you can address any issues that you may experience

### A post from the Educate Against Hate team.

The terrorist attack by Hamas in Israel has caused grave concern around the world. Talking to people about what's going on in the news can be challenging, particularly when it involves conflict. For many people, their understanding of events in Israel and Gaza are not clear cut and they can see the argument from many perspectives. In addition to this, political views shared by MPs can be seen as promoting a particular view, using language which might be considered inappropriate at best. This, alongside the context of remembrance, has almost forced us to reflect on, discuss and consider our own understanding and responses to the events in Gaza and conflict in general. There is unlikely to be a 'right' answer and acknowledging this is an important part of any discussion.

Serco STS Safeguarding team have pulled together some advice from different sources about how you can discuss and approach difficult issues, like ongoing conflicts, in a way that will allow others to consider where they can voice their opinions and feelings on things that are happening around the world.

### Knowledge and understanding

You may be asked about topical issues, however it's important to remember that you are not required to have all of the answers to the questions that people might ask and also to be aware that there isn't always necessarily going to be a 'right' answer.

Serco STS has a duty to prohibit the promotion of partisan political views and should take steps to ensure the balanced presentation of opposing views on political issue. However, this should not stop us taking steps to tackle racist or discriminatory views or challenging the extremist ideas that are part of a terrorist ideology.

### Misinformation and disinformation

The growth of the online space and the influence it has on our daily lives means that we are now receiving our news in different ways, such as through social media posts, online news outlets, and digital apps and platforms.

Misinformation (unintentionally false and inaccurate information) and disinformation (deliberately false and inaccurate information) often become more prevalent when significant events occur around the world and gain news coverage.

It's important that you use trusted news sources and develop strong media literacy skills, such as critical analysis and critical thinking. This will help to equip you with the ability to identify the difference between fact and opinion and understand when media content surrounding conflict is encouraging particular beliefs and biases.

### Diverse Perspectives and Debates

Any workplace is full of people with individual viewpoints on things happening around the world. It is important that everyone feels their voice is heard and that they have the opportunity to express their opinions. Discussions are a great opportunity to facilitate respectful debates between people by offering them a safe space where they feel comfortable expressing their perspective and simultaneously feel confident that they're in a position to appropriately challenge other's views when they consider necessary.

When engaging with debates, you should ensure that everyone is aware of how they can politely disagree with another opinion that might be voiced – for example, work to avoid the disagreement becoming personal by encouraging people to express their disagreement with the view, rather than with the individual.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCE, TIPS AND ADVICE

### Additional tips and advice

Many people will have a strong personal interest in these issues. You should ensure that political expression is done sensitively, avoiding bullying, disruption and feelings of intimidation, or targeting for other learners and staff.

This may also be an appropriate time to talk about what our fundamental British values are and the importance they place on tolerance for other faiths and beliefs.

There are several reputable organisations that offer resources to teach about this sensitive topic in a balanced way and challenge extreme and hateful narratives.

The Department's Educate Against Hate website provides a range of resources to support with challenging discrimination and intolerance. It also provides advice on how to respond where you have concerns.



### Additional sources of support

There are further trusted external bodies, which can provide support:

To assist, [the Community Security Trust](#) has published several educational resources, including those that support understanding and identifying antisemitism. For concerns regarding antisemitism, the Community Security Trust provide a national emergency number which should be used to report antisemitic attacks, alongside calling 999: 0800 032 3263.

- For anti-Muslim hatred, [Report in Anti-Muslim Hate or Islamophobia \(tellmamauk.org\)](#) provides a confidential support service, with their website providing a number of different ways to report anti-Muslim incidents.
- The DfE has a Counter-Extremism online referral form, which allows for extremism concerns to be reported directly to the Department. [Report Extremism in Education - Start](#)
- For anyone in the UK who feels impacted by the ongoing conflict, [Victim Support is available online](#) on 0808 168 9111 (free and available 24/7).

### Useful Links

- Governments Educate Against Hate Website : [EducateAgainst Hate website](#)
- Gov.uk Prevent duty training - [Prevent duty training: Learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation | Prevent duty training \(support-people-vulnerable-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk\)](#)