

## **SAFEGUARDING**

This note reminds GBs that from 1 January 2010 it will be a statutory requirement for any interview panel for a school appointment to have at least one member who has completed the appropriate Safer Recruitment training. This individual does not have to be a Governor, though it is recommended for back up / contingency purposes, and professional development, that Governor(s) undertake the training. It is understood that there are some 100 Devon schools which do not yet have trained individuals.

This training can be through an online process, though the training provider will change on 1 November 2009, or a face to face accredited provider.

If you wish to undergo online training and you have registered with the current provider, the former National College of School Leadership, you have until 15 October 2009 to complete the training.

Thereafter, if you have not completed the training or you are a new applicant you will have to register with the Children's Workforce Development Agency. This on line training registration will open on 1 November. The website address is [www.cwdcouncil.org.uk](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk).

Meanwhile you would wish to know that Devon Learning and Development Partnership are providing accredited training as follows:

09 Nov 2009 – Barnstaple Hotel  
13 Nov 2009 – Exeter Racecourse  
04 Feb 2010 – Tiverton Hotel  
03 Mar 2010 – Buckfast Abbey

Application to attend this training should be made through [www.devonldp.org/cpd](http://www.devonldp.org/cpd). Further enquiries regarding this training can be obtained from Linda Houston on 01392 386466 or [Linda.Houston@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.Houston@devon.gov.uk)

Safeguarding is hugely important part of any Ofsted and indeed a limiting measure. Inspectors go through all paperwork, especially CRB proof at the earliest stage of inspection and here is an extract from a recent Ofsted note:

“The new framework for the inspection of schools came into force on 1 September 2009, a summary of which are outlined below with particular reference to the new arrangements which relate to the safeguarding elements of inspections.

### **Satisfactory Schools**

The proportion of satisfactory schools that receive a monitoring inspection is to increase significantly, to about 40%. These new arrangements apply to schools which were judged to be satisfactory before September 2009 as well as those inspected under the new framework.

### **Schools given a notice to improve**

Most schools given a notice to improve will continue to receive a monitoring inspection around six to eight months after the Section 5 inspection. The headteacher

will be contacted at the beginning of a four week period in which the monitoring inspection will occur but the precise date will not be conveyed.

**There are two important differences in the approach for schools given a notice to improve which have not met the requirements for safeguarding.**

- (1) Monitoring inspections for these schools could take place at any time
- (2) The inspection will be completely unannounced

The inspection will focus specifically on whether or not the school now complies with requirements for safeguarding. **If the school has not dealt satisfactory with this weakness it is likely to be placed in special measures.** Where inadequacies in safeguarding are the sole reason that a school has been judged to require a notice to improve, this will be the only monitoring inspection. However, if a school has other significant weaknesses that have contributed to the judgement, a second monitoring inspection will occur, between six and eight months after the original inspection.

#### **Schools requiring special measures**

Where inadequacies in safeguarding are one of the reasons that the school was judged to require special measures, the first monitoring inspection will take place at any time following the inspection and is likely to occur at the earliest opportunity. The lead inspector may judge at any point that a school is ready for the removal of special measures. This will be determined by the school's ability to demonstrate that it has the capacity for sustained improvements and meets the needs of all pupils. “

Herewith is a comment from a CofG whose school has undergone an Ofsted in the last 3 weeks. “In the event of a child going missing, the investigating authorities will expect to receive your OCR – One Central Record – for safeguarding. This can be on paper or held electronically but should be concise with all the data on CRB, employment dates, list 99 etc in a common format for everyone to whom it applies. This is checked very carefully. All the usual governors' policies are obviously expected to be in place. Looking back, I thought that the scope of the safeguarding checks were actually quite narrow – and pretty predictable.”

David Tall

9 October 2009