



Press release

London, 8 June 2016

'Digital safeguarding in schools cannot be left to luck'

Parent Zone launches the first Digital Safeguarding training for schools

A student regularly comes into school with a bruised face. Another confides in a member of staff that they are being abused by someone in their family. Both are horrible scenarios, but if they happen, schools know immediately what procedures to follow.

But what should teachers do when a pupil reports that a stranger online has made sexually explicit suggestions, or that a friend has shared a naked photo of them on social media?

While some schools have established protocols for dealing with the new challenges created by the digital world, many need help in navigating their way through the official legislation and guidance, which can change constantly as new technologies evolve or governments change.

Which is where Parent Zone's new **Digital Safeguarding training** comes in – the first of its kind offered to schools to help them meet the safeguarding challenges of the digital age.

Parent Zone's Digital Safeguarding training covers the following areas:

- how schools can incorporate digital safeguarding into their existing safeguarding work,
- information on the forthcoming changes to police guidance on sexting and reporting,
- how digital safeguarding relates to the Prevent guidelines,
- the role of monitoring and IT systems following last month's updated government *Keeping Children Safe in Education* guidance.

Vicki Shotbolt, CEO of Parent Zone and executive board member of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety, says: 'Decisions about safeguarding concerns that seem clear when issues occur offline can be more difficult in a digital world.'

'Building the knowledge required to make those judgements cannot be left to luck. That's why Parent Zone has developed the first Digital Safeguarding training.'

'We feel it's the final piece in the jigsaw, alongside our acclaimed online safety training and Digital Schools membership scheme, to help teachers protect their pupils, while helping them make the most of the digital age.'

For more information on the UK's first Digital Safeguarding training for schools, or to speak to Vicki about issues relating to families and the online world, please contact press@parentzone.org.uk or call 020 7704 0415.

www.ParentZone.org.uk