

The British Council's Experience of Child Safeguarding

Rachel Kaberry

**Child Protection Focal Point
Sri Lanka**

rachel.kaberry@britishcouncil.org

Schools Now! March 2017

Setting the Context: The British Council

*The UK's 'official' education and cultural relations organisation.
Registered as a charity (NGO) under UK law.*

We work in over 100 countries, connecting millions of people with the United Kingdom through programmes and services in the **English language, the Arts, Education and Society.**

Globally we work with millions of children, both directly and indirectly

Our Vision

Every Child Matters...Everywhere in the World

"All children have the right to be protected from all forms of physical and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse" - UNCRC 1989

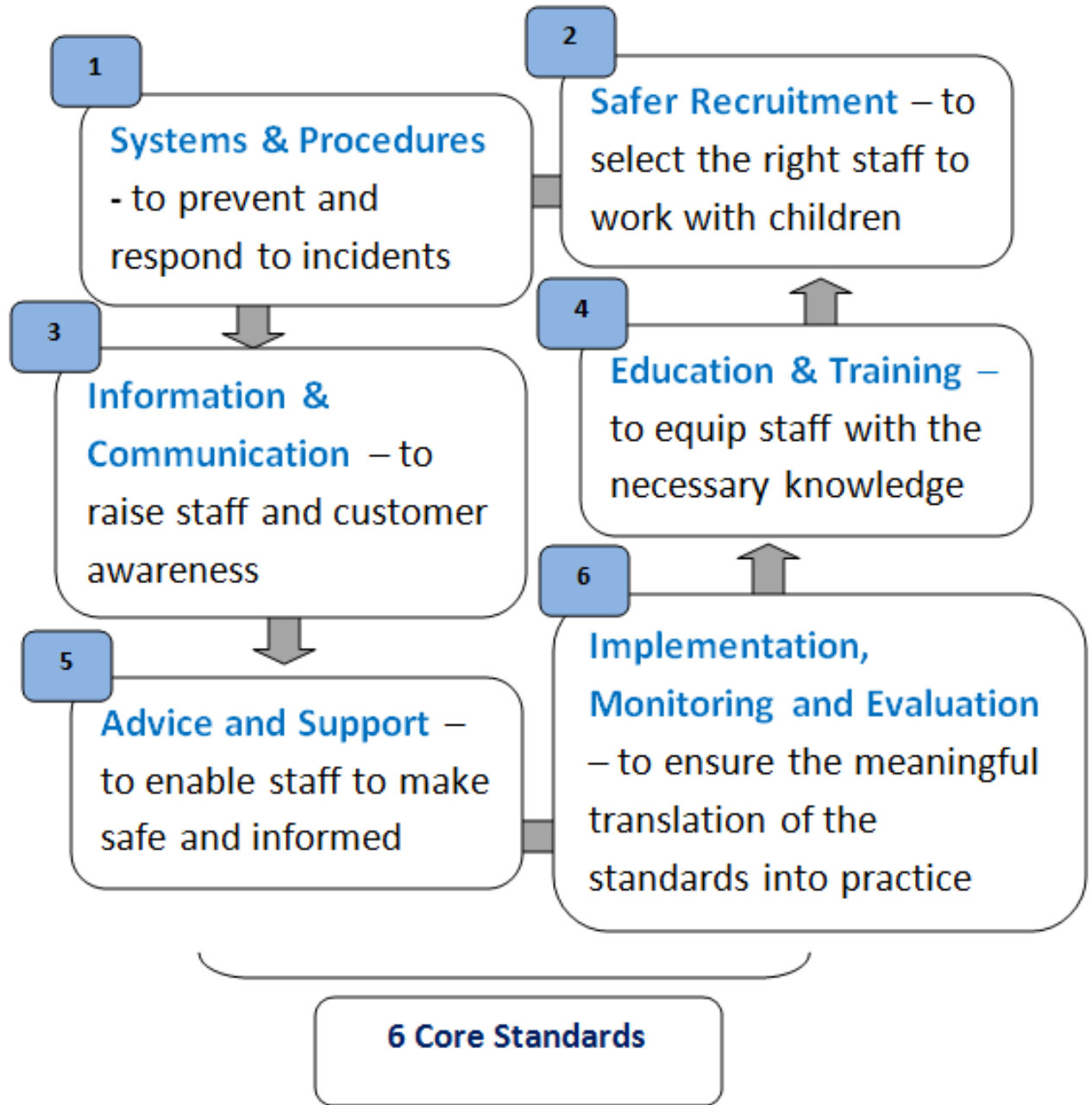
Our child protection vision is to enable the Council to achieve a child safe environment with an emphasis on ensuring a proactive culture and safe practice in the organisation.



Standards Based Approach to Child Safeguarding



Note: 'staff' means all who work for British Council and includes partners





Home > Skills > Reading skills practice

Online safety poster

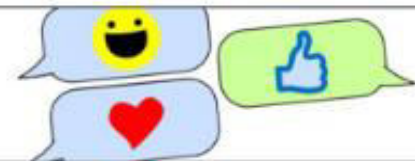
Read the poster and do the exercises to learn how to stay safe online and to practise your reading skills.

▶ Instructions

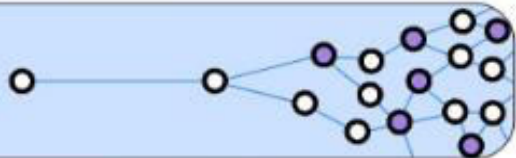
▶ Preparation

8 tips to stay safe online

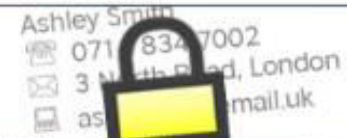
1 Be nice to people online.



2 Take care with what you share.



3 Keep personal information private.



The British Council has achieved Keeping Children Safe Level 1 Certification



There is a comprehensive child safeguarding framework in place that meets the standards for protecting children from harm and responding appropriately to concerns should they occur.

Resourcing

Child Protection Specialists

(global team of 8 people) – this includes three Regional Child Protection Managers based in regions to provide advice and support to countries.

Global Child Protection

Network – made up of country child protection focal points, regional strategic leads and departmental focal points as well as strategic leads at corporate level.



Child Protection and your school environment

Common statements made by people working with children in schools:

- Child abuse doesn't happen in my school.
- Child abuse is not a big problem in this country.
- My responsibility is education not child protection.

Why do school leaders have a responsibility in child protection.

- Everyone has a responsibility to support the care and protection of children.
- Schools have a **moral and legal duty** of care towards the children they work with.
- There is your country's local (child protection) law but also international law.
- Over 100 countries, have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). It is legally binding to all governments who have ratified it and applies to all children.

Why do school leaders have a responsibility in child protection (2).

- The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** states: “It is the right of all children to be protected from all forms of abuse and neglect, exploitation and violence” and “all adults should do what is best for children.”
- Making sure children are **safe and protected** is an important part of their education and ensuring they achieve their full potential.
- Child abuse is a **global issue**. It occurs in all countries and cultures. Our own views of children, childhood and child abuse will be based in our cultural and personal experiences. It is important to be aware of what these assumptions are and be open to challenging them if necessary.

What can you do in your school? – examples

- Develop and implement a **child protection policy**; this should ensure a voice for children and include an outline of what the school is trying to achieve, why it is doing it and how.
- Develop and implement a **child protection procedure** for disclosures; this should include a named person who deals with concerns, reporting systems, confidentiality and recording provisions, and timeframes;
- Build on the awareness and knowledge of staff around child protection by supporting **training and development**; and
- Familiarise yourself and build relationships with the **local support and child welfare** agencies.

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU

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