PeerSphere

Professionally Hosted Peer Learning Communities

Session 1 Summaries

Safeguarding / Child Protection

Date: November 5, 2024
Hosts: Katie Wellbrook, Supriya Kotwal-Mahajan

Connection, High-Risk Support, Safeguarding Tools

We agreed upon focus areas for our PeerSphere sessions this year: Learn more about developing and nurturing meaningful connecting with students Specific resources around high-risk cases and situations like Suicidal ideation and behaviour Online abuse and social media related safeguarding resources Platforms and systems for recording concerns and access for various role

Agency Access, Social Media Risks, Time Constraints

Participants shared their Challenges and Struggles in their Safeguarding and Child Protection role: Access to External agencies can be a struggle Horrors of Social Media oversharing - how we can defuse situations strategies including restorative practices Time to do focus on the Safeguarding function - especially those who have a teaching load

Support, Validation, and Learning Together

Goals and Takeaways overlapped with each other: Members spoke about their desire for aa support team where we can ask questions share challenges and learn from each other. At the end of the session members shared it was validating to hear about different schools programmes and some similarities in terms of challenges and resources.

Diverse Roles Unite for Supportive Safeguarding Community

Members from a wide variety of roles including educators, mental health professionals and administration executives connected with each other instantly in a genuine and supportive environment, generously sharing their experiences and domain expertise. The Safeguarding and Child Protection community promises a year of rich learning and authentic support.
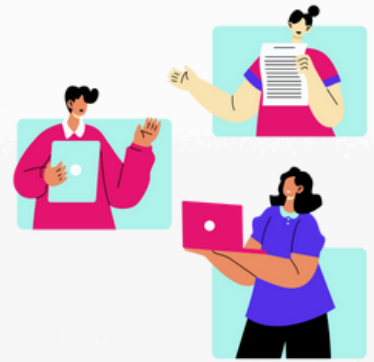
Additional Resources

* Session 1 Slide Deck
* Session 1 Recording

Join us to connect and learn with your peers!
#GiveALittleGainALot

PeerSphere
Professionally Hosted Peer Learning Communities

Session 2 Summaries

Safeguarding / Child Protection

Date: December 3, 2024
Hosts: Katie Wellbrook, Supriya Kotwal-Mahajan

Crisis Response Protocol

Hosts presented the context for CRP and a range of protocols, roles and responsibilities for various Safeguarding Team members tailored for the International School setting. Different templates for meetings and care plans were shared with the group before diving into discussions of case studies with examples provided by participants.

Discussions about customizing

Crisis Response Protocols: Participants discussed applications of the protocol in their settings keeping in mind unique nuances of the cultural and geo-political context. Break outs rooms provided the opportunity to embed the learning from the presentation.

Q&A and Next Steps

Participants continued discussions about their experiences in Crisis Response situations and best practices. Hosts invited suggestions for focus areas for upcoming live sessions. Difficult Conversations with families and Online Safety emerged as the two main areas the group would like to focus on.
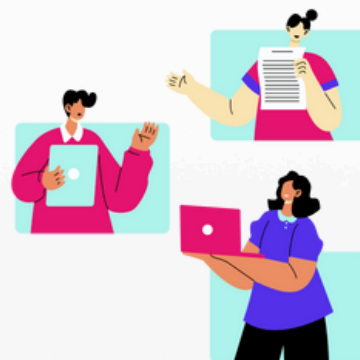
Additional Resources

✳ Session 2 Slide Deck
✳ Session 2 Recording

Join us to connect and learn with your peers!
#GiveALittleGainALot

PeerSphere
Professionally Hosted Peer Learning Communities

Session 3 Summaries

Safeguarding / Child Protection

Date: February 18, 2025
Hosts: Supriya Kotwal & Katie Wellbrook

Proactive Online Safety Awareness

The session underscored the importance of identifying trends in digital risks and establishing clear safeguarding measures. Educators examined patterns of online harm and discussed how consistent policies and parental education can mitigate risks. This proactive approach aims to protect students by addressing both in-school and home environments.

Collaborative Problem-Solving in Safeguarding

Participants engaged in small group discussions to share real-life scenarios and challenges related to online safety. They collaboratively explored solutions— from improving digital citizenship and setting boundaries on device usage to implementing family tech agreements—highlighting the critical role of teamwork among educators, parents, and staff in preventing online harm.

Reflective Action for Enhanced Child Protection

The session concluded with reflective exercises that prompted educators to identify one actionable step to improve online safeguarding. This reflection focused on immediate actions such as resource sharing, targeted parent training, and continuous policy refinement—ensuring that the school's approach to child protection evolves alongside emerging digital challenges.
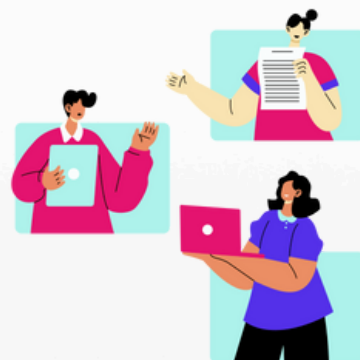
Additional Resources

* Session 3 Slide Deck
* Session 3 Recording

Join us to connect and learn with your peers!
#GiveALittleGainALot

PeerSphere
Professionally Hosted Peer Learning Communities

Session 4 Summaries

Safeguarding / Child Protection

Date: March 25, 2025
Hosts: Supriya Kotwal & Katie Wellbrook
Guest Speaker: Sian Jorgensen

Understanding Affluent Neglect

Affluent neglect refers to emotional neglect in wealthy families, where material abundance does not compensate for a lack of emotional connection or supervision. It is often difficult to identify because it doesn't involve physical signs of neglect. This form of neglect can lead to psychological issues such as anxiety and depression in children. Schools need to develop strategies to recognize and address this issue effectively.

Safeguarding Challenges in High-Status Families

In high-status families, emotional neglect is often overlooked because the child appears well-cared-for on the outside. These children may struggle with perfectionism, isolation, and low self-esteem, despite academic success. The challenge for schools is recognizing these subtle issues that don't show in traditional safeguarding signs. Safeguarding in these cases requires sensitive awareness and careful observation.

Practical Approaches for Schools

Schools can support students from affluent families by creating environments that address both emotional and academic needs. Engaging families in open, respectful dialogue is crucial, as is being proactive about identifying emotional struggles. Encouraging collaboration between educators and parents helps ensure that children receive the support they need. Sensitivity and confidentiality are key to navigating these conversations.

Additional Resources

* Session 4 Slide Deck
* Session 4 Recording

Join us to connect and learn with your peers!
#GiveALittleGainALot