

## Supplementary safeguarding advice for schools considering web conferencing or live streaming to maintain continuity with students

The government guidance [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#) offers general advice to schools in this area. It recommends consulting [this](#) LGfL document, which is a useful checklist.

It is clear that national guidance is still being finalised, as some of it is at least partially contradictory. For example, some sources state that 1:1 sessions are not permissible, but the guidance cited above advises that 1:1 is permissible so long as the senior leadership team approves each instance.

Securing parental consent is essential. You cannot assume consent by default, even if the intention is for the online arrangement to emulate a pre-existing real-life, physical arrangement.

The overriding concern here must of course be safeguarding children, but it is important to consider professionals' positions too.

Recording a session makes sense for a number of reasons, from both a safeguarding and a pedagogical perspective, but GDPR regulations require that all parties must consent in advance; that the recording must only be viewable by those with a legitimate reason to see it (including the student(s) and parent/carers); and that it is deleted when no longer required. On no account may students make their own recordings of sessions.

Other follow-on common sense conditions would be

- the live streaming or webcasting system has been risk assessed as suitable for this purpose
- at the remote end, students' own equipment (such as mobile phones) are not to be used – only equipment owned by the parent/carer and with their permission
- an appropriate room is chosen (not a bedroom) with anodyne furnishing and nothing to distract
- all parties must be suitably attired reflecting the purpose of the session – though school uniform may be going too far!
- all live streaming or webcasting is initiated, managed and controlled by the teacher and not by any student
- the session is private to those with a legitimate reason to attend (this might include a colleague in a chaperone role) and students cannot add other parties to the session
- the parent/carer agrees to be around in a monitoring/supervising capacity (though this need not mean that they are in the same room)