



Safeguarding hot topics

We are living in troubling times, and for many the start of this year has felt quite a challenging one. We at PDTT are here for you all, at any time you may feel like you need some **extra support**, whether that is to **discuss mental wellbeing**, **financial circumstances**, **accessing a food bank** or for something else.

We must also be cautious and vigilant for misinformation and disinformation - where someone deliberately seeks to provide false or incorrect information (most commonly through online sources). Critical thinking, a skill you will all be using in your courses, is just as important in these situations and can help you to analyse a piece of 'news' and help you to determine if it is reliable.

No one should be made to feel unsafe – everyone has the right to be safe from harm and abuse. If something does not feel right to you or you have concerns about someone close to you, let us know.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Semin Archidiacono has recommended the following safeguarding news stories for you to read:

www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk/the-making-of-the-knife-angel

www.judiciumeducation.co.uk/news/safeguarding-in-schools-2025

CASE IN POINT

"I came to UK 12 years ago with no English and my studies were not good, so I started as a cleaner. I always wanted to work in a school and help children. I now feel close to get my goal and this is all thanks PDTT. I come every Tuesday happy and knowing I will learn something new. We are blessed to have organisations like PDTT – they help us get our dreams."

Elizabeth Rauda joined PDTT following a friend's recommendation and is currently studying Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning in Schools Level 3 at PDTT. She has recently completed her placement.

"I was very happy in my workplace; it was my first time working in a school and with children. Everyone made me feel welcome and comfortable. I loved working with the children and had the opportunity to teach lots of things but particularly found maths was my strength. I really enjoyed it. And now I know this is absolutely the work I want to do, to become a TA in a school."

Following her husband, who moved to the UK for work, Elizabeth Rauda moved here from El Salvador where she had completed a degree and was working at the government tax office providing advice and guidance to people. She has two children, a daughter aged 14 and son aged seven, and plays football in a league on Clapham Common every Sunday.

Elizabeth Rauda remembers how hard it was in the beginning, "I cried a lot at the start. My daughter also had a challenging time, starting school here at three with no English. She and her brother are both settled and happy in their schools. I now like to help people who are in a similar situation to me back then, I would always recommend PDTT and similar organisations to help other ladies – as I didn't have this before.

"I am so happy now - especially with this course, I wasn't sure if I could do it, I thought my English wouldn't be good enough. The teacher is so good and is always giving us motivation and makes us feel we can do it. Before I thought learning online wasn't as good as face-to-face but now, I know differently and recommend PDTT to others, here we can learn the same as face-to-face."



"I enjoy everything about the course, I am learning everything about the role of a TA and all we need to know about working with children. I enjoy

learning, especially as it is the work I want to do. I want to help children to learn and develop their own skills. All the classmates are nice too, and we get on well."

"I feel so happy, and I am in the place I really want to be. Honestly, for me this kind of organisation, makes it possible for me and people like me. I do not have enough money to fund this training for myself so thank you all so much. I will always be thankful to PDTT and the other organisations that have helped me with my English – you've all really helped me and my motivation. When someone supports and motivates you, you want to do better. Sometimes teachers don't care about the students, it's about the money – it is not like this at PDTT. I want to be like my teacher."



LEARNER FEEDBACK



This term a randomly selected group of learners from all courses were invited to attend a focus group or complete an online survey – their feedback told us:

100% of learners surveyed said
"I find the learning environment at PDTT to be motivating."

100% of learners surveyed said
"I feel satisfied with the teaching staff, and the way they teach my course."

100% of learners surveyed said
"I feel this course is helping me to achieve my personal and learning goals."

When asked: What has been the most useful and enjoyable parts of your course so far?
Learners said:



We are working with Hammersmith & Fulham to deliver training courses. Please scan the QR code to access other courses delivered at the Macbeth Centre.

"Learning new things every week, safeguarding, techniques to observe and learning about child's development more in depth. I have really enjoyed all the units and learning new things about being a practitioner."

"I am achieving more and improving with learning, and I feel more confident about working with children in school and with helping my own children. It is helpful for life and my goals as well. I have been three years studying at PDTT on different courses."

"All the courses were interesting because they were a blend of practical, theoretical, and interpersonal learning, creating an enriching environment that prepares students for successful careers in childcare."

"During the zoom meetings we share ideas and speak in depth in certain parts of the course, which is useful."

"I am enjoying it because it helps me learn more about the child and in school environments – it is helping me know how to deal with situations at school."



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