

Ukraine

Advice from Andrew Hall, Safeguarding Specialist and Consultant

The situation in Ukraine is horrendous. Whilst we are geographically far away from the events, many in our schools and communities will be directly affected and may have families or roots in the region. The news and social media feeds are filled with the latest information, and some of it is very upsetting and worrying; and may not even be verified. Children listening and viewing distressing images can become frightened and fearful.

Here are some background reading resources to help you think about how adults can support children with what they are seeing or feeling. *Please read through these links before sharing, to ensure that they are suitable for your community and situation.*

Current information regarding Ukraine

Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine (Childnet)

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/>

We should not hide from children what is happening in Ukraine (Schools Week/Children's Commissioner)

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/we-should-not-hide-from-children-what-is-happening-in-ukraine/>

How to talk to children about what's happening in Ukraine and World War Three anxiety (Metro)

<https://metro.co.uk/2022/02/24/how-to-talk-to-children-about-whats-happening-in-ukraine-16163133/>

Help for teachers and families to talk to pupils about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how to help them avoid misinformation (Department for Education)

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>

Advice from the Anna Freud Centre:

The [UK Trauma Council](#), founded by the Anna Freud Centre, includes general information about the impact of trauma.

We have also had specific requests for advice on how to best respond to our children's natural curiosity and growing anxiety around the conflict in Ukraine. In response we have developed some useful suggestions with [BBC Bitesize](#) for parents and carers you may wish to share with the families you support.

Working together to keep our children safe and happy.

Halina Rooney

Deputy Head of Inclusion/SENCo