

From an Additional Support Needs Manager

I appreciate that the Code is carefully structured, however I think that whilst the purpose is to safeguard, by addressing that part first there is a danger of losing the ethos, the purpose for the Code (enshrined in the legislation).

If people are reading something like the Code, their focus/energies are often on the first section.

I consider understanding and assimilating the **purpose** for sharing information is critical for people to get it right. Otherwise what is shared and the proportionality of what information is shared can be missed.

For me the key question that people need to consider in sharing information is '*to consider if the sharing of information will promote, support or safeguard the wellbeing of a child or young person*'. Having understood and considered that then they need to consider the safeguards.

Working in the field of education, hearing regularly that head teachers (who are the named persons and often lead professionals) are having work load issues - I am concerned that feeling workload pressures they will focus on the safeguarding first section of the Code, make sure they have 'ticked' the boxes and these aspects of the legislation will be missed which identify why we consider sharing information. Therefore we will not get it right for young people because practitioners 'canna see the wood for the trees'.

I consider that the code would be a more effective tool if the description of the relevant law came at the beginning and 'safeguards' second.

Or alternatively there might be a summary of the broad thrust of the legislation encapsulating why information is to be shared (*promoting, supporting or safeguarding*) being put at the beginning of the Code to remind readers of the reasons that need to underlie any sharing of information.