

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2024

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION 2024

The main technical changes that all staff should be aware of...

The definition of 'Safeguarding' has been expanded to bring it in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children:

- A new line has been added: Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- In the bullet on protecting children maltreatment, the guidance has clarified that this is within or outside the home, including online

There are also a few new early help indicators. You should now also be alert to any child who:

- Has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from schools, colleges and in alternative provision or a pupil referral unit
- Has a parent or carer in custody (previously it was 'family member in prison'), or is affected by parental offending
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from education, home or care (the word 'education' has been added)

There have also been the following small changes:

- When referring to 'abuse and neglect', the guidance now also includes 'exploitation' throughout
- The definition of abuse now also has 'including where they see, hear or experience its effects' in relation to domestic abuse
- 'Unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education' has replaced the phrase 'deliberately missing education' when referring to safeguarding issues
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The indicators of county lines have been updated. You should be aware of children who:

- Go missing from school or home and are subsequently found in areas away from their own
- Have been the perpetrator or alleged perpetrator of serious violence (e.g. knife crime), as well as the victim.

Two sections are still under review:

The section on children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or gender questioning

- This remains under review until the response to the gender questioning children consultation. The phrase 'gender questioning' has replaced the word 'trans'
- KCSIE says that schools should take a cautious approach to support a gender questioning child and:
 - Consider the broad range of the individual's needs
 - Do this in partnership with their parents (except in rare circumstances where involving parents would bring a significant risk of harm to the child)
 - Include any clinical advice that is available
 - Consider how to address wider vulnerabilities, such as the risk of bullying
 - It's also important for staff to 'create a culture' where pupils can speak out or share any concerns with staff (previously it was to 'provide a safe space' for pupils to do this).

Preventing radicalisation

This section is still under review after the government published a new definition of extremism on 14 March 2024. For now, the changes include:

- An updated definition of radicalisation, which is defined as 'the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence'
- 'Susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism' has replaced the wording 'susceptible to an extremist ideology'
- When referring to the Prevent duty, 'the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism' has replaced 'the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'
- Some information around possible indicators has been removed. Instead, refer to the DfE's guidance on managing risk of radicalisation in your education setting and final guidance have been published

KEY EXPECTATIONS

- **All staff to complete the statutory training including the National College Certificate in Safeguarding & Prevent**
- **All staff to read KCSIE: Part 1 and the following policies: Safeguarding, Behaviour, Staff code of conduct, Anti-bullying and Whistleblowing**
- **Staff must not use personal mobile phones within the vicinity of students**

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