

The draft of [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#) does not contain major systemic changes – these have been deferred to next year and the Government began a [call for evidence on safeguarding in schools and colleges](#) which is planned to close on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Ministers decided this year’s guidance should contain only “technical changes ... with a view to providing a more substantively updated document, encompassing wider changes, to be delivered in 2025”.

We have been looking through the planned guidance in detail and highlight all the changes below, including some minor changes not flagged in Annex F.

### Part 1 – Safeguarding information for all staff

- The menu has been expanded to include subheadings that were not previously flagged on this page.
- Not mentioned in Annex F, a sentence has been added in para 2 reminding all staff that **“‘Children’ includes everyone under the age of 18”**. Think with staff about how some children are treated as adults, particularly the responsibilities placed on teenagers who are being exploited, or the adulting of black children and young people.
- The first change we flagged in our free webinar when **the definition of safeguarding in Working Together** was updated at the end of last year. You’ll want to make sure your staff understand the new definition ... it will be a feature in our [KCSiE Knowledge Check](#) this year. The definition now begins with the responsibility on staff for **“providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge”** (para 3)
- The definition also adds emphasis to staff child protection duties **“whether that is within or outside the home, including online”** (para 3)
- The triggers for early help in para 18 also has been revised to align with Working Together:
  - Missing to include **education**, home and care
  - Where students have **“experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from schools, colleges and in Alternative Provision or a Pupil Referral Unit”** – the increased emphasis on this area reflects growing concern nationally around the increases in the use of suspension and the emphasis in [Behaviour in Schools](#) to ensure behaviour is also viewed through a safeguarding lens.
- Paragraph 19 (and then throughout the document) has a focus now on exploitation as well as abuse and neglect.
- The indicators of abuse and neglect in Paragraph 24 now include a specific mention of the impact on children seeing, hearing or experiencing the effects of domestic abuse. We offer a free domestic abuse training pack for schools and colleges to use in staff meetings – [get in touch](#) for a trial copy.

- ‘Deliberately missing education’ is now more appropriately framed as “unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education” in paragraph 29, in line with the more safeguarding-oriented [Working Together to improve school attendance](#).
- Not included in Annex F, Part 1 continues the theme of alignment in paragraph 56 reminding staff to refer to Working Together for a fuller definition of early help

## Part 2 - The management of safeguarding

- Paragraph 93 cross references to the [Data Protection in Schools toolkit](#) published last year to help staff, governors and trustees understand the law, develop DP policies, know what when to store data and provide guidance on avoiding data breaches.
- The DfE no longer reference plans to provide further guidance on teaching relationship focused education specifically to prevent sexual harassment and sexual violence in paragraph 131
- The reference to the NSPCC document on undertaking remote teaching safely has been removed in paragraph 138 and is no longer on the NSPCC website
- Over the year there has been a greater focus during inspections on ensuring settings use AP provision safely and effectively – we developed and launched a [Quality Assurance of Alternative Provision course](#) a few months ago. KCSiE emphasises the importance of oversight of AP in a new paragraph 171: “Where a school places a pupil with an alternative provision provider, it continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of that pupil and should be satisfied that the placement meets the pupil’s needs”
- Again not in Annex F, the DfE have taken a more tempered tone around elective home education in paragraph 179 which previously stated “home educated children have *an overwhelmingly* positive experience” – the words in italics have been dropped. It adds that as well as being less visible some of these children are “not in receipt of suitable education”
- Paragraph 200 flags the [new responsibility on Virtual School Heads](#) to champion the attendance, attainment and progress of children in kinship care which also comes into force in September 2024. Schools & colleges should be ensuring kinship care is covered in staff training, including for the designated teacher and DSL. Safeguarding Network have a [members’ training pack available here](#).
- The resources published by the NSPCC in 2022 for [children with SEND](#) and [d/Deaf and disabled children and young people](#) are flagged in paragraph 204.
- Three new paragraphs (206-208) have been added to the retitled section on children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or gender questioning. The term ‘bi’ is replaced with ‘bisexual’ and the term ‘trans’ has been removed from KCSiE which flags this section “remains under review, pending the outcome of the [gender questioning children guidance consultation](#)” which closed in December 2023. The new paragraphs state:

206. However, the [Cass review](#) identified that caution is necessary for children questioning their gender as there remain many unknowns about the impact of social transition and children may well have wider vulnerabilities, including having complex mental health and psychosocial needs, and in some cases additional diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

207. It recommended that when families/carers are making decisions about support for gender questioning children, they should be encouraged to seek clinical help and advice. When parents are

supporting pre-pubertal children, clinical services should ensure that they can be seen as early as possible by a clinical professional with relevant experience.

208. As such, when supporting a gender questioning child, schools should take a cautious approach and consider the broad range of their individual needs, in partnership with the child's parents (other than in the exceptionally rare circumstances where involving parents would constitute a significant risk of harm to the child), including any clinical advice that is available and how to address wider vulnerabilities such as the risk of bullying. Schools should refer to our Guidance for Schools and Colleges in relation to Gender Questioning Children, when deciding how to proceed."

The term 'provide a safe space' has been replaced with 'create a culture' where young people can speak out or share their concerns with staff. The link to [Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education guidance](#) in this section has been removed.

There are no substantive changes in **Part 3 - Safer recruitment & Part 4 - Safeguarding concerns or allegations made about staff, including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors**

#### **Part 5 - Child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment**

- The definition of Early Help (para 497) has been changed from "providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life" to align with paragraph 118 in [Working Together 2023](#): "support for children of all ages that improves a family's resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse".

There are no substantive changes in **Annex A – Safeguarding information for school and college staff**

#### **Annex B – further information**

- Indicators of CCE and CSE on page 151 now include both perpetrators and alleged perpetrators
- There is an error in Annex F – the new age-appropriate guides to support children in the court system are on page 151. The [link to CAFCASS site](#) (which is about family law rather than criminal law) has been deleted – this still has really valuable information for children where families are separating or there are care proceedings so is worth keeping. The new leaflets are very user friendly and for witnesses aged [5-11](#) or [12-17](#) in criminal courts.
- A [new definition of extremism](#) was published on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024:

Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

1. negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
2. undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy[footnote 6] and democratic rights; or
3. intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).

The draft of KCSiE 2024 notes it has not yet been updated to reflect the changes in this definition. Although Annex F says minimal changes have been made to “clarify schools’ duties in relation to Prevent”, there appears to be no practical change to the guidance. It may be there is clearer guidance when the final document is published in September.

- The list of hyperlinks in the Additional Advice & Support section (p163) has been updated. The changes are:
  - [Children who run away or go missing from home or care](#) (updated January 2024)
  - Trafficking: Safeguarding Children has been revised back to the original title of the document: [Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked](#)
  - Care of unaccompanied and trafficked children has been revised back to the original title of the document: [Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery](#)
  - The Drug Strategy 2021 has been replaced with [From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives](#) (April 2022)
  - Information and advice about drugs has been retitled Honest information about drugs but still leads to the [Talk to Frank](#) website
  - The [Lets talk about it](#) link on preventing radicalisation and extremism has been removed
  - The Lucy Faithfull Foundation’s excellent new self-help site for teenagers worried about sexual behaviour, [shorespace.org.uk](#), has been added
  - The AskAVA link no longer works and has been removed

### Annex C – role of the designated lead

- The reference to Skype on p170 has been re-added – DSLs (or deputies) can be contacted by “phone and/or Skype or other such media”
- The requirement to keep detailed records and understand the purpose of record-keeping has been replaced with a requirement to:

“be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of all concerns, discussions and decisions made including the rationale for those decisions. This should include instances where referrals were or were not made to another agency such as LA children’s social care or the Prevent program etc.” (p176)

Don’t forget... Keeping Children Safe in Education still requires “**everybody** working in a school or college understands their safeguarding responsibilities” and “Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that those staff who work directly with children read **at least** Part one...” (p6). **Safeguarding Network** saves time for hard-pressed DSLs and provides brilliant, low-cost, in-house training materials to deliver the required regular updates for the whole staff team. For a tour of the site do get in touch, or join now for an immediate **FREESUMMER** of support when you [join Safeguarding Network](#) for 2024/5.

In the meantime, have a restful summer among the election wildness, knowing  
**we are here to support you.**