

## UPDATES FOR SCHOOL STAFF

# KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION 2025

## A SUMMARY OF THE KEY DRAFT CHANGES

Remember, KCSIE 2025 is currently in draft form and may change ahead of becoming statutory on 1st September 2025 (see below for detail of expected changes). Until then, schools and colleges must continue to adhere to the 2024 guidance. Read the draft changes in full at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

### LGBTQ+

The DfE continues to be in the process of revising various pieces of guidance relevant to KCSIE. Therefore, we can expect further changes to be made before 1<sup>st</sup> September, particularly in the following areas:

- Supporting gender-questioning children and young people
- Expectations re. RSHE

The government are aiming to publish updated guidance in this area in the coming months and this may then mean additional tweaks and links within KCSIE.

### ONLINE SAFETY

The list of examples of online safety risks in the 4C's section (Content, Contact, Conduct and Commerce) now includes the following risks:

- Misinformation,
- Disinformation (including fake news)
- Conspiracy theories.

### ATTENDANCE

In the "Children who are absent from education" section, it is now clarified that "Working together to improve school attendance" is statutory guidance.

### CHILDREN IN CARE

Virtual School Heads now have an additional (non-statutory) responsibility to "promote the educational achievement of all children in kinship care."

### FILTERING AND MONITORING

The "Plan technology for your school" guidance has been added to the list of standards around F&M. It enables schools to better assess whether they meet the standards. The list of additional guidance on "appropriate" F&M has been expanded to include the guidance "Generative AI: product safety expectations"

### ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

One of the main areas of change is within the guidance around supporting children in AP.

The changes simply reflect existing AP guidance however, so chances are, your school may already be doing these!

When a pupil is placed with an AP provider, settings are directed to:

- Obtain **written confirmation** that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working within the AP
- Be notified of any arrangements that may put the pupil at risk
- Remain fully aware of where a pupil is based during school/college hours (e.g. if the AP is using a satellite site or going on an educational trip).
- Review AP placements at least half termly
- Review and potentially terminate any placements where safeguarding concerns arise.

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### SEND

In order to align with the SEND Code of Practice, in the section on the Cass Review (around how schools should support children who are gender-questioning), the term “spectrum disorder” has been removed. Rather, we simply use the term ‘autism’.

### ONLINE SAFETY BILL 2023

Although it is not strictly KCSIE, there continue to be safeguarding responsibilities that arise as elements of the Online Safety Bill become law. For instance, the following are now criminal offences:

- Cyberflashing
- Threatening communications (e.g., of death or serious injury)
- Epilepsy trolling
- Encouraging serious self harm
- Sharing (or threatening to share) intimate images including deepfake images.

As of 25<sup>th</sup> July, pornography websites available to users in the UK must have age verification (e.g. facial recognition/analysis or similar) facilities.

### SEXUAL ABUSE

KCSIE now includes new resources from the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA Centre). (and a new document from the Children’s Society called “Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation”) to help education professionals identify and respond to concerns of child sexual abuse and abusive behaviours.

### HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

Shore Space, which is a new resource from the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, has been added to the list of helpful resources when handling cases of child-on-child abuse or harmful sexual behaviour.

It’s an online resource offering a confidential chat service to support young people concerned about their own or someone else’s sexual thoughts and behaviour.

### RECRUITMENT

Schools and colleges are now directed to the Check a teacher’s record service to make GTCE, prohibition, direction, restriction, and children’s barred list checks.

The Information Commissioner’s Employment Practices Code is included within KCSIE in order provide advice regarding retention of information and files.

### REMEMBER:

Don’t update any policies or documents that refer to specific paragraphs or pages of KCSIE – they have changed since 2024, but are likely to change again before 1<sup>st</sup> September.

KCSIE contains the terms “must” and “should” throughout the guidance:

- “must” is used when the person in question is **legally required** to do something
- “should” is used when the advice set out should be followed **unless there is good reason not to.**