

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026

7-Minute Staff Briefing



At a Glance

- Replaces KCSIE 2025.
- All staff should read part 1 in full.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Annex C contains the official summary of changes.

What all staff need to know – Effective from 1 September 2026

1

All Staff Must Know More



- Staff who do not work directly with children should understand safeguarding systems, referral routes and the role of the DSL
- Staff should understand safeguarding systems, referral routes and the role of the DSL
- Annual updates and regular safeguarding training remain essential

2

Early Help and Family Help



- Stronger emphasis on early help, community-based support and targeted Family Help
- Staff should recognise concerns early and act quickly
- Safeguarding issues often overlap, so professional curiosity matters

3

Child-on-child abuse



- Section is expanded and retitled to include harassment and violence
- It is a safeguarding issue for both the victim and the alleged perpetrator
- Staff must challenge harmful behaviour and not dismiss it as banter

4

Wider Safeguarding Risks



- Added or strengthened references to modern slavery, financial exploitation and child-to-parent/caregiver abuse
- Misogyny and misandry are referenced more clearly
- Mental health and serious violence sections have been substantially updated

5

Online Safety, Phones and AI



- Updated online risk guidance
- New guidance on mobile phone policy
- Added guidance on the safe and effective use of generative AI in education
- "Making or sharing nudes or semi nudes" now includes AI-generated imagery such as deepfakes

6

Safer Recruitment and Volunteers



- Regulated activity guidance has been rewritten for clarity
- The supervision exemption has been removed under the Crime and Policing Act 2026
- Some volunteers who teach, train, instruct or supervise children regularly may now be in regulated activity
- References now use DfE "Check a teacher's record"

7

Children Who May Need Extra Support

- New section on young carers
- New section on safeguarding children with medical conditions
- Additional barriers for children with SEND are highlighted
- Updated content on mental health support, attendance, and children who are LGB or gender-questioning

What staff should do now

1



Read Part 1 of KCSIE 2026: [Keeping children safe in education 2026](#) (comes into force from 1 September 2026)

2



Refresh yourself on the child protection policy and reporting routes

3



Report concerns early – never assume someone else will act

4



Stay alert to online peer-on-peer and extra-familial risks

5



Speak to the DSL or deputy immediately if worried about a child



Key reminder

Safeguarding concerns are rarely standalone. Record concerns clearly, share them promptly, and always act in the best interests of the child.