

# 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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