Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 (Information only)

Summary of Changes

July 2025

The ‘Information Only’ version of KCSiE 2025 has the fewest changes of any of the annual iterations we have received.

A comprehensive list of the changes that you’ll find in Annex F.

* In the section about Opportunities to teach safeguarding (para 128) the DfE plan to insert references to the revised Relationships, Sex and Health Education guidance, last published in 2021 and due to be updated this summer – we will keep you up to date through our bulletin when this is

published.

* The four Cs of online risk, content, contact, conduct and commerce (para 135) have been slightly updated with the addition of content that includes misinformation, disinformation (including fake news) and conspiracy theories. Educate Against Hate highlighted approaches to take within schools in this important area, and the Pears Foundation reported earlier this year that the best way to tackle misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy amongst young people is through schools, but that they’ll need much support to do so. We’ll draw some of the key issues out in our members’ implementation tool.
* The September 2024 guidance to help you Plan technology for your school is now referenced in the guidance (para 142). This self-assessment services shows how your school can plan, and use digital technology to keep children safe online, prevent cyber incidents and upgrade and maintain technology in cost-effective ways with recommendations to help meet the digital and technology standards. KCSiE includes a reminder (para 144) to take the appropriate action to meet the cyber security standards and also references January’s guidance on Generative AI which sets out the capabilities and features that should be in place for users in educational settings (para 143).
* There is also a reminder about the checks schools should be undertaking for alternative provision(paras 169-170 and 331), all of which are in the Alternative Provision guidance updated in February 2025. KCSiE 2025 emphasises the need for written confirmation that full safer recruitment steps

have been taken on all staff and of arrangements “that might put a child at risk” such as new staff joining the alternative provision so that checks can be made there too. Schools need to know where their students are throughout school hours (i.e. the address where they are being educated). Finally, there is guidance AP placements should be reviewed at least half termly to ensure children are attending, their needs are met and the setting is safe, with the potential that the placement is ended if any concerns are not addressed.

* Working Together to improve school attendance 2024 is statutory guidance, so “schools, trusts, governing bodies, and local authorities must have regard to it as part of their efforts to maintain high levels of school attendance” (WT to improve school attendance, para 1). As such, the wording

around children who are absent from education has been revised from “should work with” to schools “must work with… children’s services where school absence indicates safeguarding concerns” (para 177).

* The updated KCSiE 2025 reminds us the role of the virtual school head was extended in March 2024 to promote the education of children with a social worker and children in kinship care (para 199).
* As last year, the Government’s guidance on gender questioning children is expected to be published before the final version of Keeping Children Safe in Education on 1st September 2025 (para 204), taking into account the Supreme Court judgement that ‘sex’ means biological sex.

* The Equality and Human Rights Commission published an interim update in April 2024 with some of the considerations this will have for schools.
* The diagnosis of ‘autism’ has been amended from ‘autism spectrum disorder’ (para 205) to align with the SEND code of practice.
* Several safer recruitment links in Part 3 have been updated (paras 260, 266, 319 and 331).
* There is a title correction from ‘Employment Practices Code and supplementary guidance’ to The Information Commissioner Employment Practices Code (para 422).
* ‘Shore’ (para 545) is a brilliant new resource we flagged last year where teenagers can go if they are worried about sexual behaviour. It has a really good library of articles and a helpline (5-8pm). It’s run by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, a charity working (particularly with people who may offend) to

prevent all forms of child sexual abuse.

* In the table of contents for Annex B the title ‘Children missing education’ has been updated to ‘Children who are absent from education’).
* The note stating the Preventing Radicalisation section is under review (page 157) has been removed without any changes.
* The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse now has an education specific landing page (page 163) with guides on safety planning, communicating with children, communicating with parents and a range of other resources.
* The Children’s Society’s page on Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation has been added to the resources on page 164.