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SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE

ISSUE: 14 **September 2025**

Welcome to the start of the new academic year! We hope you had an enjoyable summer break and some well-deserved rest. This Safeguarding and Child Protection Update provides essential information to keep your knowledge current and relevant to the schools or settings we place you in, including an **overview of recent changes to the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025 guidance.**

IMPORTANT: KCSIE 2025 update

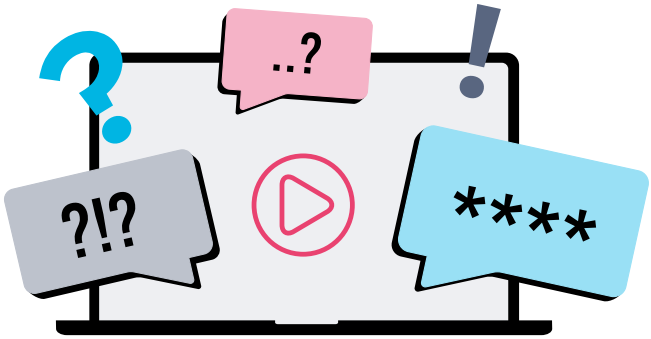
The Department for Education (DfE) has updated its Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) guidance, which came into force on the 1st September 2025. Below is an overview of the changes and key points to support you in fulfilling your safeguarding responsibilities while working on supply.

A list of full changes to the guidance can be found in 'Annex F: Table of changes from KCSIE September 2024 version', and can be found on pages 184 - 187 of the full KCSIE document guidance.

Online safety

The KCSIE 2025 guidance includes updates on online safety, highlighting **disinformation, misinformation, and conspiracy theories** as content risks:

- **Disinformation** – deliberate creation and spread of false or misleading content, such as "fake news."
- **Misinformation** – unintentional spread of false or misleading content.



Filtering and monitoring

This year's updated guidance also includes a link to the DfE's guidance on **Generative AI: product safety expectations.** With emerging online challenges to navigate, this guidance on generative artificial intelligence (AI) explains how filtering and monitoring requirements apply to the use of generative AI in education and supports schools to use generative AI safely.

Alternative provision

The guidance offers further alternative provision guidance, emphasising how schools should:

- **Obtain written confirmation** from the alternative provider that appropriate staff safeguarding checks have been completed, along with written details of any arrangements that may pose a risk to the child.
- **Keep records** of the alternative provider's address and any subcontracted or satellite sites the child may attend.
- **Regularly assess alternative provision placements** to ensure they remain safe and meet the child's needs. If any safeguarding concerns arise, the placement should be promptly reviewed and terminated if necessary.

Children who are absent from education

The DfE's **Working Together to Safeguard Attendance** guidance is now statutory guidance.

Virtual heads

As of September 2025, the role of Virtual School Heads includes a non-statutory responsibility to promote the educational achievement of all children in kinship care.

RSHE

The updated KCSIE for September 2025 provides **drafted guidance for relevant topics included within Relationships, Sex Education and Health Education (RSHE)**, which will be revised for introduction in September 2026. The guidance aims to provide children with the necessary knowledge to make ethical and informed decisions regarding their health, relationships and wellbeing.

Your responsibility

These changes are reflected across the broader statutory guidance provided for schools and colleges. It's your responsibility as an educator to ensure you have read the **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025: For school and college staff (part 1)** guidance, which is a condensed version of the full guidance document.

Online safety and the Online Safety Act 2023

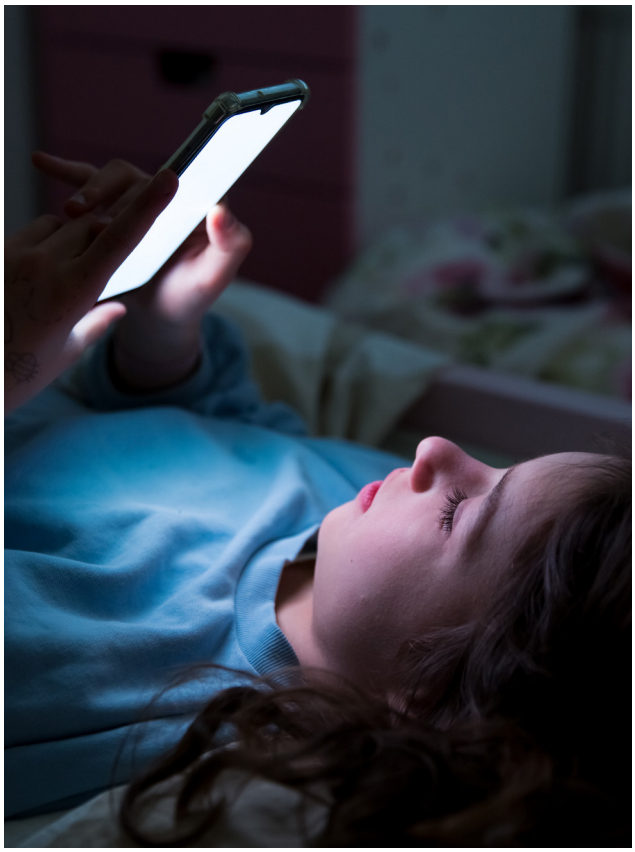
In today's digital landscape, children and young people have unprecedented access to the internet for learning, socialising and entertainment. While this connectivity offers numerous benefits, it also exposes them to potential risks such as harmful content, cyberbullying, online predators and privacy breaches.

Without proper guidance and protection, these risks can have serious implications for young users. It's essential to teach children how to use the internet responsibly, set clear boundaries, and encourage the development of positive digital habits. Parental involvement, open communication and age-appropriate tools are key to creating a secure online environment.

For educators, understanding the potential online risks that students may encounter is crucial. This awareness enables you to address issues appropriately and foster a safe digital learning space.

The websites below contain some useful resources to help you create and maintain safer online spaces for children.

- **Teaching Online Safety in Schools (GOV)**
- **Online Safety Resources (NSPCC)**



Online Safety Act 2023

The Online Safety Act 2023 has the primary function of safeguarding children and adults on the internet. As of 25th July 2025, the Act has put new duties on social media companies and other platforms to implement systems and processes to impose age restrictions on social media sites/services, reduce the risk of illegal activities, and remove inappropriate content.

Various online services are now required by law to prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate content through methods such as digital identity verification, to safeguard children from restricted content.

Within the Online Safety Act 2023, new offences were introduced to safeguard individuals on the internet. These newly introduced offences include:

- encouraging/assisting self-harm
- cyberflashing
- sending false information intended to cause non-trivial harm
- threatening communications
- intimate image abuse (including deepfake and AI pseudo-photographs), and
- epilepsy trolling.

Online safety and the Online Safety Act 2023 continued

The Act requires all online companies to take preventative measures against illegal activities on their platforms, including robust flagging systems to remove illegal content and reduce the risk of it being uploaded again in the future.

The Online Safety Act 2023 also identifies primary and secondary priority content that children must be protected from online. You can find out more about the types and categories of illegal content using the link below.

- **Online Safety Act 2023 – Further Detail (GOV)**

The Act intends to make it harder for cyber-criminals to operate and aims to censor content that may cause harm to the wellbeing of individuals, especially children and young people.

As part of your review of online safety, please also familiarise yourself with our expectations for data security while working in schools or other settings for our agency:

- **Data Security Policy**

Personal life – disclosure

This is a reminder that, in line with our registration terms and staff code of conduct, all staff are required to promptly disclose to us any instances in which they are the subject of investigations or enquiries by third parties. This may include investigations by the police, an alternative employer or agency, or the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), and may relate to your personal or professional life.

While we appreciate the importance of personal privacy, transparency and disclosure are essential to ensure that we can safeguard the wellbeing of the children and young people you may work with, and so that we can provide you with any necessary support and information.

If you are currently involved in any such matter or become aware of one in the future, please notify your local branch, or email **dsl@edwin.supply** at the earliest opportunity. All information shared will be treated with discretion.

Physical contact

When working with students who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), ensure you have a comprehensive understanding of their individual needs, including sensory, health, or social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, particularly concerning physical contact.

We operate a no-contact policy for supply staff with students, which should always be adhered to except in the following circumstances:

- If a student is at risk of harming themselves or others.
- When providing personal care as part of your agreed job role. You should always carry out the task with sensitivity and respect, and ensure another appropriate adult is in the vicinity and aware of the task to be undertaken.
- Supply staff who are Team Teach trained (please provide your consultant with proof of qualification if you have not already done so).
- Supply staff who are first aid trained and, in a situation, where first aid is required (please provide your consultant with current proof of qualification if you have not already done so).

If physical contact is necessary, always be mindful that physical contact and/or close physical proximity with a child, young person or vulnerable adult may be misinterpreted and may leave you open to scrutiny.

Generally, you should never be alone with a child. If unavoidable, make sure you keep the classroom door open and do not block any exits.

Social media

The **Social Networking Policy** within our **Staff Code of Conduct** includes important information about keeping your online activity safe and professional.

We recommend:

- Using an alternative or variation of your name that students would not know for your profile name.
- Maintaining a private account.
- Posting mindfully, taking care to represent yourself professionally online, and ensuring all profile photos are appropriate to your role in a position of trust.
- Considering the photographs and videos you post, and the content that others post of you. Specifically reviewing what information they reveal, making sure not to expose your home address and school locations etc.

Top tip

Be mindful of your online connections. Do you have friends who live near the school you work in? Review any tagged social media photos and be aware that parents, carers and students may gain access to your weekend activities.

Training resources

It's important to keep your training record with us up to date. If you have completed any recent safeguarding or child protection training via schools, voluntary roles or other agencies, please email copies of your certificates to your agency:

- visionadminbox@visionforeducation.co.uk
- abcadmininbox@abc-teachers.co.uk
- smartadminbox@smartteachers.co.uk

If you haven't completed a safeguarding course within the last 12 months, please speak to your consultant for more details about the free online course we can provide.

GDPR

Protecting your data is important to us. Find out more about how we comply with legislation in the Privacy section on our websites.

- www.visionforeducation.co.uk/privacy-policy
- www.abc-teachers.co.uk/privacy-policy
- www.smartteachers.co.uk/privacy-policy

Please note that some of the resources detailed in this bulletin are from third-party providers which are not part of Edwin (Vision for Education/ABC Teachers/Smart Teachers) and should be used at your own discretion.