

# Need-to-know: Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) updated for 2023 (The Key)

NEW on 7 June 2023

School types: All · School phases: All

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The new version of [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\)](#) comes into force on 1 September 2023. There was no consultation period this year as the changes are quite minimal.

We've summarised the key things you need to know, and we're also working on a more detailed summary of the changes (find out how to access it at the bottom of this article).

## Part 1: key things to know

- As part of their safeguarding and online safety training, staff need to understand their expectations, roles and responsibilities around **filtering and monitoring systems** (paragraph 14). This new emphasis is repeated several times in KCSIE 2023

## Part 2: key things to know

### Around filtering and monitoring:

- Governing boards should make sure the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) takes responsibility for understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place as part of their role (paragraph 103)
- Boards should also make sure all staff understand their expectations, roles and responsibilities around filtering and monitoring as part of safeguarding training (paragraph 124)
- Your child protection policy should include how your school approaches filtering and monitoring on school devices and school networks (paragraph 138)
- Governing boards should review the DfE's [filtering and monitoring standards](#). Your board should discuss with your IT staff and service provider what needs to be done to support your school in meeting the standards (paragraph 142)

Other changes include clarification:

- That some children are at greater risk of harm than others, both **online and offline** (paragraph 170)
- Around how the term 'children missing education' is different from 'children absent from education'. Supporting children who are absent from education

helps prevent the risk of them becoming a child missing education in the future (paragraph 175)

### **Part 3: key things to know**

- You should inform shortlisted candidates that you might conduct an online search as part of due diligence checks in the recruitment process (paragraph 221)
- More emphasis on how your school needs to create the right culture so staff feel comfortable discussing safeguarding matters in and outside of work, **including online** (paragraph 343)

### **Part 4: key things to know**

- There's a new heading and paragraph which says that if your school receives an allegation relating to an incident where an individual or organisation was using your school premises for running an activity for children, you should follow your safeguarding policies and procedures and inform the local authority designated officer (LADO), as you would with any safeguarding allegation (paragraph 377)

### **Part 5: key things to know**

- Some of the language has changed to reflect the most recent behaviour guidance:
  - Paragraphs 542 and 544 now say that teachers can **sanction** pupils whose conduct falls below the standard which could be reasonably expected of them
  - The heading above paragraph 544 has been tweaked to '**sanctions** and the alleged perpetrator(s)'

### **Annex B: key things to know**

- The section on 'children who are absent from education' has been updated to reflect the difference between children absent from education and children missing education. **Note:** it isn't completely clear, but the guidance implies that 'children missing education' is the next step up from children being absent from education (pages 144 and 145, also see paragraph 175)
- The section on mental health now recognises attendance as something which can be impacted by mental health (page 148)
- The sections on preventing radicalisation (page 149) and Channel (page 151) now refer to children/people who are 'susceptible' to extremist ideology and radicalisation, rather than 'vulnerable'
- There's more clarity around the fact that someone referred to Channel will be required to provide their consent before any support through the programme is provided (page 151)

- There's extra information around forced marriage. Since February 2023, it's been a crime to carry out any conduct whose purpose is to cause a child to marry before their 18th birthday, even if violence, threats or another form of coercion are not used. This applies to non-binding, unofficial 'marriages' as well as legal marriages (pages 155 and 156)

### **Annex C: key things to know**

- Part of the DSL's responsibilities is to take the lead on understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place in school (page 164)

## Next steps

Train your staff using our new and improved INSET pack covering the latest changes to KCSIE and the cost-of-living impact on safeguarding. We're updating it for you now, so you can be ready in time for September.

If you already have Leaders+ Safeguarding or Whole School membership, we'll automatically let you know as soon as the pack is ready. [If you're not yet a member, register your interest](#) and we'll let you know when it's ready too.

You can also head to our [more detailed summary](#) of the KCSIE 2023 changes, which we're updating now, and select 'save for later' to be notified when we've republished it.

We're updating our other articles to reflect the new guidance, including our [model child protection policy](#). To get a notification when it's ready, go into the article and select 'save for later' at the top.