

Key Changes in KCSIE 2025

1. School attendance is more prominent

The guidance now reflects that "Working Together to Improve School Attendance" has become statutory guidance. This reinforces the safeguarding importance of attendance and emphasises schools' responsibilities in identifying children who may be at risk through persistent absence.

2. Expanded Online Safety Risks

The online safety section has been updated to include references to:

- Disinformation
- Misinformation
- Conspiracy theories

Schools are expected to recognise these as potential online harms that can affect children's wellbeing and safety.

3. Greater Reference to Generative AI

Additional guidance has been included regarding the use and risks of generative artificial intelligence (AI). Schools are encouraged to understand emerging risks associated with AI-generated content and its impact on safeguarding, online safety, and education.

4. Clarification on Alternative Provision

The guidance provides further detail about safeguarding arrangements when pupils attend alternative provision (AP) settings. While schools remained responsible for safeguarding these pupils under KCSIE 2024, the 2025 edition offers greater clarity on expectations and oversight.

5. Virtual School Heads and Kinship Care

KCSIE 2025 clarifies the role of Virtual School Heads in relation to children living in kinship care. The guidance explains that support for this group remains a non-statutory responsibility but highlights the importance of promoting their educational outcomes.

What Remained the Same?

Several safeguarding areas saw no substantive changes, including:

- Part One (the section all staff must read)
- Child-on-child abuse guidance
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment procedures
- Core safeguarding responsibilities of staff and DSLs
- Safer recruitment principles