Services For Education

KCSIE 2025: KEY CHANGES – AT A GLANCE

SUMMARY OF KEY SAFEGUARDING UPDATES:

STRONGER FOCUS ON ONLINE SAFETY:

Online safety guidance has been strengthened to include the risks of misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories. These are now explicitly highlighted as part of the well-established 4 Cs framework: content, contact, conduct and commerce.

Staff should be alert to how misleading or harmful online material can influence children's views, behaviour or wellbeing.

DSL Q - Are staff equipped to identify and respond to the risks of misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories as part of their online safety responsibilities?

NEW TOOLS FOR DIGITAL SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT:

A new DfE tool, Plan Technology for Your School, supports schools in reviewing and strengthening their filtering and monitoring arrangements.

There is also reference to the 2024 guidance on the use of generative AI in education, and updates to cybersecurity standards to promote resilience and digital safety across school systems.

DSL Q - Have we reviewed our filtering and monitoring systems using the new DfE self-assessment tool, and do we have clear guidance on the use of generative AI in school?

CONTINUED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUPILS IN ALTERNATIVE PROVISION:

Where children are placed in alternative provision, the home school retains full safeguarding responsibility. This includes oversight of the provision and ensuring effective safeguarding practices remain in place.

DSL Q - Do we have clear safeguarding oversight of all pupils in alternative provision, including regular communication and monitoring arrangements?

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE GUIDANCE NOW STATUTORY:

The 2024 Working Together to Improve School Attendance guidance is now statutory. It reinforces the link between attendance and safeguarding, requiring schools to consider whether poor attendance may indicate a wider welfare or protection concern.

DSL Q - How do we ensure that safeguarding concerns are routinely considered when addressing patterns of poor attendance?

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN IN KINSHIP CARE:
Virtual School Heads now have an extended role in supporting children in kinship care arrangements, helping to ensure these pupils receive appropriate educational and wellbeing support.

DSL Q - Are we working effectively with the Virtual School to support children in kinship care, and is this reflected in our practice and records?

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE AND ANTICIPATED GUIDANCE:
Terminology in the guidance has been updated to refer simply to "autism", removing the terms 'spectrum' and 'disorder'. New guidance on gender-questioning children is expected to be added in future once published by the DfE.

DSL Q - Have we updated relevant policies and staff training to reflect inclusive terminology and prepared for future guidance on gender-questioning children?

CHANGES TO SAFER RECRUITMENT REFERENCES:
References to the Teaching Regulation Agency's Employer Access Service have been replaced with direct links to the relevant information on the gov.uk website. Additionally, the title of the Information Commissioner's guidance on employment vetting has been corrected for clarity.

DSL Q - Have we updated recruitment documentation and processes to reflect the latest guidance links and sources of vetting information?

NEW RESOURCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING HELP:
A new link has been added to Shore Space, a confidential resource developed by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation to support young people who are worried about their own sexual behaviour.

NEW EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR PREVENTING HARM:
The CSA Centre has published new resources to support schools in teaching about child sexual abuse, and the Children's Society has released additional materials to help schools prevent child sexual exploitation.

DSL Q - Have we shared the new resources from the CSA Centre, Children's Society and Lucy Faithfull Foundation with appropriate staff and embedded them into safeguarding practice?

WHAT SCHOOLS SHOULD DO NEXT:
- Include these updates in September safeguarding training and DSL briefings
- Review online safety and filtering policies in light of new tools and guidance
- Ensure terminology in policies and communications is up to date
- Strengthen support for children in alternative provision and kinship care
- Use new resources to reinforce safeguarding education and pupil support.