

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016



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Keeping Children Safe in Education was published in March 2015 and updated in May and September 2016. The 2016 edition replaces the 2015 edition.

The legislation looks at safeguarding procedures and practices in education to strengthen efforts in safeguarding, safer recruitment, and handling allegations against staff. The guidance has four main parts which cover:

- Safeguarding information for **all staff** - the new updates emphasise the role every member of staff has to play in safeguarding.
- The management of safeguarding.
- Safer recruitment.
- Allegations of abuse made against teachers and other staff.



The additions cover **sexting** and **missing children** and highlight the urgent need to ensure staff have **regular safeguarding training**. The updates also emphasised the importance of maintaining knowledge regarding safeguarding best practice and procedures and threats to child welfare, such as FGM and internet safety.

The **FGM** section has been broadened to include honour-based violence, and now reflects the mandatory reporting duty (which came into effect in October 2015). The guidance on **Preventing Radicalisation** was updated to reflect commencement of the Prevent Duty in colleges. The update also includes a

new annex (Annex C) which provides detailed advice on online safety.internet safety.

Detailed information on the updates can be found below.

Safeguarding is Everybody's Responsibility

The update wishes to explicitly state that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. The new guidance states that 'everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children.' It encourages professionals to take a child-centred approach and to consider the best interests of a child at all times.

Professionals Need to Share Information

The update argues that no one person can understand the full picture of a child's life, and, therefore all professionals must share information to get a fuller picture of the child's needs and circumstances. The update says that 'if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.'

Better Awareness Needed of the 'Early Help Process'

The update includes new guidance on early help. The guide says that 'all school and college staff should be prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help,' and the guide defines early help as 'providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.'

Staff need to be aware of the process and of how to complete an early help assessment. Designated safeguarding leaders have a vital role in the early help process and will support staff to liaise with other agencies. The guide also

states that if early help is appropriate, the case should be kept under constant review.

Staff Need Continuous Training on Safeguarding Issues and Child Protection

The new guidance recommends that staff receive updates via email, staff meetings, or bulletins to keep skills and knowledge up to date - this has to be done at least annually.



What to Do If You Have Concerns

The new update also clarifies the protocols that need to be followed if there is concern about a child. There is further updated advice to what staff should do when they fear a child is in immediate danger (contact police or children's social care immediately). Anyone can make a referral in these circumstances; it does not need to be the designated safeguarding lead. However, they should be informed about the action as soon as possible.

There is also an update to the mandatory reporting of FGM and the definition of 'teacher' - the FGM mandatory guidance says 'this includes qualified teachers or persons who are employed or engaged to carry out teaching work in schools and other institutions, and, in Wales, education practitioners regulated by the

New Whistleblowing Advice

The guidance includes a new sentence detailing what to do if there are concerns about the head teacher and outlines alternative sources of help if staff feel unable to report a concern in their organisation. Staff who feel unable to use the internal route of whistleblowing can contact the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline. In circumstances where there are concerns surrounding the head teacher, staff should report allegations to the designated officers at their local authority.

Recognition of the Complexity of Abuse and Updates of Definition

The guidance says 'all school and college staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.'

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Updates to the Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation

The new definition is below and includes a reference to online exploitation.

Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Consent cannot be given, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and can happen online. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point.

Children Missing from Education

Sexual exploitation and radicalisation have been added to the guidance as risk factors. In line with these changes, and particularly in reference to FGM and radicalisation, the guidance has added that:

- 'It is essential that all staff are alert to the signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns such as travelling to conflict zones, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.'
- Schools on the admissions register should record any change of address or school.
- Schools are expected to share admission additions, deletions, and returns with the local authority within expected timescales.

- Schools must use 'school2school', the secure internet system, to transfer pupil information to another school if a child moves.

There is also detailed guidance provided for college students who are of a compulsory school age which you can read below.

'Where a college is providing education for a child of compulsory school age, the college shall work collaboratively with the appropriate local authority in order to share information about the attendance and/or absences of that child as the local authority deems necessary, as set out in departmental advice Enrolment of 14 to 16-year-olds in full-time further education. The college should also inform the relevant local authority immediately if that child is removed from the roll so that the local authority can as part of their duty identify children of compulsory school age who are missing education.'