

Changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education for 2024

Main technical changes to be aware of

The **definition of safeguarding has been expanded** to bring it in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children:

- › A new line has been added: Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- › In the bullet on protecting children maltreatment, the guidance has clarified that this is **within or outside the home, including online**

There are also a few new **early help indicators**. You should now also be alert to any child who:

- › Has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from schools, colleges and in alternative provision or a pupil referral unit
- › Has a parent or carer in custody (previously it was 'family member in prison'), or is affected by parental offending
- › Is frequently missing/goes missing from education, home or care (the word 'education' has been added)

There have also been the following small changes:

- › When referring to 'abuse and neglect', the guidance now also includes 'exploitation' throughout
- › The definition of abuse now also has 'including where they see, hear or experience its effects' in relation to domestic abuse
- › 'Unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education' has replaced the phrase 'deliberately missing education' when referring to safeguarding issues
- › The indicators of county lines have been updated. Be aware of children who:
 - Go missing **from school or home** and are subsequently found in areas away from their own
 - Have been the perpetrator or **alleged** perpetrator of serious violence (e.g. knife crime), as well as the victim

2 sections are still under review

The section on children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or gender questioning

- › This remains under review until the response to the gender questioning children consultation and final guidance have been published

- The phrase 'gender questioning' has replaced the word 'trans'
- KCSIE says that schools should take a cautious approach to support a gender questioning child and:
 - Consider the broad range of the individual's needs
 - Do this in partnership with their parents (except in rare circumstances where involving parents would bring a significant risk of harm to the child)
 - Include any clinical advice that is available
 - Consider how to address wider vulnerabilities, such as the risk of bullying
- It's also important for staff to 'create a culture' where pupils can speak out or share any concerns with staff (previously it was to 'provide a safe space' for pupils to do this).

Preventing radicalisation

- This section is still under review after the government published a [new definition of extremism](#) on 14 March 2024
- For now, the changes include:
 - An updated definition of radicalisation, which is defined as 'the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence'
 - 'Susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism' has replaced the wording 'susceptible to an extremist ideology'
 - When referring to the Prevent duty, 'the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism' has replaced 'the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'
 - Some information around possible indicators has been removed. Instead, refer to the DfE's guidance on [managing risk of radicalisation in your education setting](#)

Sources

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education, GOV.UK – Department for Education](#)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

This factsheet was produced by [The Key Safeguarding](#): thekeysupport.com/safeguarding