

The Department for Education has published its consultation on the proposed updates to the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) statutory guidance for 2026. As part of sharing this consultation, I wanted to highlight the key areas of change being proposed so you can review them alongside the full document.

Below is a summary of the main updates included in the consultation:

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY OF THE GUIDANCE

(Overarching structure, format, terminology and new themes)

- Possible shift from a PDF to a more accessible HTML format, with feedback sought on length and structure.
 - Clearer application of KCSIE to school-based nurseries and reception classes through explicit reference to the EYFS.
 - Updated terminology on image sharing, including references to AI-generated intimate images/deepfakes.
 - Expanded references to misogyny, particularly where linked to harmful sexual behaviours.
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SECTION 2 – PART ONE: SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR ALL STAFF

(What all staff must know and do)

- Proposal to remove Annex A, meaning all staff would read Part One to ensure consistent safeguarding awareness.
 - Greater alignment with Working Together to Safeguard Children, including strengthened clarity around legal definitions relating to sexual offences and exploitation.
 - Revised indicators for early help, including pupils repeatedly removed from classrooms or on part-time timetables.
 - Strengthened guidance on serious violence, including child-on-child incidents as safeguarding concerns.
 - Earlier and clearer explanation of expectations regarding LADO referrals.
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SECTION 3 – PART TWO: THE MANAGEMENT OF SAFEGUARDING

(Whole-school safeguarding systems, leadership & processes)

- A substantially reworked section on mental health and its link with safeguarding responsibilities.
 - Expanded guidance relating to children questioning their gender, and new sections on single-sex spaces and single-sex sports.
 - Updated preventative education guidance, including references to racism and derogatory behaviour.
 - New content covering artificial intelligence (AI) in education and its safeguarding implications.
 - Requirement for annual filtering and monitoring reviews with recorded checks.
 - Stronger expectations around cyber security, recognising it as a safeguarding issue.
 - More detail on alternative provision standards and safeguarding oversight.
 - Updated guidance on medical conditions, SEND, and information sharing when pupils move settings.
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SECTION 4 – PART THREE: SAFER RECRUITMENT

- New Single Central Record template and clarifications on DBS expectations for work experience.
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SECTION 5 – PART FOUR: MANAGING ALLEGATIONS ABOUT STAFF

- Inclusion of trainee teachers within procedures for managing allegations about staff.
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SECTION 6 – PART FIVE: CHILD-ON-CHILD SEXUAL VIOLENCE & SEXUAL HARASSMENT

- Restructured Part Five to reflect a clearer continuum of sexual behaviours, aligned with evidence-based models.
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SECTION 7 – ANNEXES

- Updated annexes, including links to guidance on AI-generated child sexual abuse material and financially motivated sexual extortion.

SECTION 9 – EXPANDING OUR EVIDENCE BASE

- A range of areas where the DfE is specifically seeking further evidence, including: affluent neglect, AI risks, teenage relationship abuse, grooming gangs, gaming platforms, sextortion, verbal abuse, and support for DSLs.

The consultation is open until 22 April 2026.

You can access the full consultation and the relevant documents and respond via the link provided below.

If you have any questions please do send to schools@gmb.org.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/keeping-children-safe-in-education-proposed-revisions-2026>