

## Up-to-speed on: changes to 'Keeping children safe in education' (KCSIE) from September 2020

The DfE has released the final version of 'Keeping children safe in education' (KCSIE) that will be effective from September 2020 – this article breaks down the key changes.

### Key points

The key points are as follows:

1. [The majority of the changes that were proposed have not been made](#)
2. [KCSIE remains in force throughout the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)
3. [DSLs have been given responsibility for the educational outcomes of children with a social worker](#)
4. [New specific safeguarding issues are covered](#)
5. [There are additional safeguarding issues covered in Annex A](#)
6. [There is a new section on children potentially at greater risk of harm](#)
7. [Information has been added about the flexible introduction of relationships education, RSE and health education](#)

Read on to learn more information about each key point.

### The majority of changes that were proposed have not been made


The government had suspended its consultation on the proposed changes to KCSIE due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The version that has now been released to be used from September does not include the majority of the changes proposed in the consultation document, including the following:

- Giving schools the freedom to determine whether staff who don't work directly with children should read Part one of KCSIE in its entirety or a new annex which summarised Part one – the proposed new annex has also not made the finalised version.
- Strengthening the role of the DSL in a number of areas including pupils' mental health and awareness of the lasting impact of trauma – the final version does give the DSL responsibility for the educational outcomes of pupils who need, or have needed, a social worker.
- Restructuring and adding additional information to the sections on safer recruitment and allegations of abuse against staff.



## **KCSIE remains in force throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic**

The DfE has confirmed that KCSIE remains in force throughout the UK's response to the coronavirus outbreak. A [link](#) has been provided to the non-statutory interim guidance on safeguarding during the pandemic.



## **DSLs have been given responsibility for the educational outcomes of children with a social worker**

The only new responsibility for DSLs that has made it into the finalised version from the consultation is the responsibility for promoting the educational outcomes of children with a social worker. DSLs will need to ensure staff know who these children are, understand their academic progress and attainment, and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort.



## **New specific safeguarding issues are covered**

KCSIE 2020 introduces mental health as a specific safeguarding issue that staff should be aware of. Guidance is given about the connection between mental health and safeguarding concerns and what staff should do if they have a mental health concern about a pupil that is also a safeguarding concern.

While child sexual exploitation (CSE) and child criminal exploitation (CCE) are included in the current document, in KCSIE 2020, they are addressed as specific safeguarding issues. Guidance is included about what CSE and CCE are, how this abuse can be perpetrated and what it means for victims.



## **There are additional safeguarding issues covered in Annex A**

Annex A contains important additional information about specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues. KCSIE 2020 introduces some new issues and updates advice around some areas including:

- CCE – KCSIE 2020 includes new advice on what CCE is and the indicators to look out for.
- County lines – this section of Annex A includes a lot of new information, especially regarding what county lines exploitation involves.
- Channel – a section collating information about Channel has been included.
- Domestic abuse – this was a section in KCSIE 2019, but the 2020 version provides more guidance on [Operation Encompass](#) and the National Domestic Abuse Helpline.



## **There is a new section on children potentially at greater risk of harm**

This new section highlights that while all children should be protected, some groups of children are potentially at greater risk of harm. Some of the information that now sits under this heading was included in KCSIE 2019; however, other pupil groups have been added. These groups are pupils who need a social worker (children in need) and pupils requiring mental health support.



## Information has been added about the flexible introduction of relationships education, RSE and health education

The government has previously announced that relationships and health education in primary schools and RSE and health education in secondary schools will become compulsory from September 2020 as planned; however, schools are being offered flexibility on when to begin delivering these subjects within the 2020/2021 academic year due to coronavirus. This has been reflected in KCSIE 2020. Find out more in our article [here](#).



## What's next?

- Your school must continue to follow the guidance in KCSIE 2019 until September 2020.
- We will be updating all of our relevant resources in time for September 2020.

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## Bibliography

DfE (2020) 'Keeping children safe in education' (for information only)