

Need-to-know: Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) updated for 2026/27

KCSIE 2026/27 has been published. Changes include the requirement for all staff to read part 1 of KCSIE in full, as well as enhanced guidance on pupils who are questioning their gender, and new sections covering single-sex sports exceptions based on biological sex, and mobile phones in schools.

New

on 8 July 2026

•Ref: 46635

The Department for Education (DfE) has published [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (KCSIE) for the 2026/27 academic year. The guidance comes into force on **1 September 2026**.

All staff must now read part 1 of KCSIE in full

All staff in your school must now read part 1 of KCSIE in full (previously, your school could decide whether to let staff who don't work directly with children read a condensed version – see page 7, under 'School and college staff'.

Annex A (the condensed version of part 1 in KCSIE 2025) has been removed.

Other key changes

The updated document includes new sections and updated expectations that include:

- **Enhanced guidance on supporting pupils who are questioning their gender** – your school is expected to take a 'very careful' approach when responding to requests related to social transition (paragraphs 252 to 282)
- **New safeguarding requirements for school premises and sports** – your school must not allow children into toilets, changing rooms or showers designated for the opposite biological sex, and a new section covers single-sex sports exceptions based on biological sex (paragraphs 95 to 98, 106 and 113)
- **More guidance on AI** – including new links to resources to support your school in making decisions around the use of generative AI (paragraph 165)
- **Updated expectations for child protection policies** – including procedures for the way your school handles both consensual and non-consensual making and sharing of nudes and semi-nudes, including those generated using AI (paragraph 191)

- **A new section on mobile phones in schools** – your school is expected to implement a policy where pupils don't have access to their phones at all during the school day (paragraph 168)
- **New guidance on serious violence as a safeguarding concern** – including guidance around your school's role in protecting children from violence, sharing information early and supporting those at risk (paragraphs 49 to 52)
- **Clarified guidance on child-on-child sexual harassment and sexual violence** – part 5 of KCSIE now explains that harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) exists on a continuum and may escalate into sexual harassment or sexual violence
- **Barred list checks for volunteers** – anyone volunteering in a school who teaches, trains, instructs or supervises children frequently or more than 3 days in a 30-day period is now in regulated activity and will therefore need an enhanced DBS check with barred list information (paragraph 381)

Next steps

We'll update the following articles as soon as possible – select 'save for later' on each article below to be notified once we've updated it:

- A [detailed summary](#) of KCSIE 2026
- An article setting out the [September 2026 changes to KCSIE](#)
- Our outline of the key [changes in education 2026/27](#)
- A guide to [how to review your child protection policy](#)
- Our guide to [reviewing your mobile phone policy](#)
- Our eLearning course on [safeguarding for governance](#)

Let your designated safeguarding lead (DSL) know about our [safeguarding training](#) – we're currently updating these resources to be fully in line with KCSIE 2026/27:

- [Safeguarding and child protection INSET pack](#)
- [Safeguarding and child protection: the essentials](#) eLearning course