



Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)

Summary of Changes - Information Only Version

The 2025 "Information Only" edition of KCSiE introduces minimal changes compared to previous years, offering some relief to Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) as they head into the summer break. However, several important updates and clarifications have been made, particularly in Annex F:

Key Updates and Revisions

1. **Safeguarding Education (Paragraph 128)**

References will be added to the revised *Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)* guidance, originally published in 2021 and due for an update in summer 2025. Updates will be shared via bulletins once released.

2. **Online Safety – The Four Cs (Paragraph 135)**

The framework for online risks—**content, contact, conduct, and commerce**—now includes threats such as misinformation, disinformation (including fake news), and conspiracy theories. Resources from *Educate Against Hate* and the *Pears Foundation* emphasize the critical role of schools in addressing these issues.

3. **Technology Planning and Cybersecurity (Paragraphs 142–144)**

The guidance now references the *September 2024 technology planning framework*, which supports schools in using digital tools safely and cost-effectively. It also highlights the need to meet cybersecurity standards and includes January 2025 guidance on the use of *Generative AI* in educational settings.

4. **Alternative Provision (Paragraphs 169–170, 331)**

Schools must obtain written confirmation that full safer recruitment procedures have been followed for all staff in alternative provision settings. They must also know the exact location of students during school hours and review placements at least half-termly to ensure safety, attendance, and suitability.

5. **School Attendance (Paragraph 177)**

In line with the *Working Together to Improve School Attendance 2024* statutory guidance, schools are now required to work with children's services where absence raises safeguarding concerns. The language has shifted from "should work with" to "must work with."

6. **Virtual School Head Role (Paragraph 199)**

The role was expanded in March 2024 to include promoting the education of children with a social worker and those in kinship care.

7. **Gender Questioning Guidance (Paragraph 204)**

Anticipated government guidance on gender-questioning children is expected before the final KCSiE 2025 release. It will reflect the Supreme Court's ruling that "sex" refers to biological sex. Interim considerations were published by the *Equality and Human Rights Commission* in April 2024.



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8. Terminology Update – Autism (Paragraph 205)

The term “autism spectrum disorder” has been updated to “autism” to align with the *SEND Code of Practice*.

9. Safer Recruitment (Paragraphs 260, 266, 319, 331)

Several links and references in Part 3 have been updated to reflect current best practices.

10. Information Commissioner’s Code (Paragraph 422)

The title has been corrected to *The Information Commissioner Employment Practices Code*.

11. New Resource – Shore (Paragraph 545)

Shore, a resource by the *Lucy Faithfull Foundation*, offers support for teenagers concerned about sexual behaviour. It includes a library of articles and a helpline (available 5–8pm).

12. Annex B Title Update

The section previously titled “Children missing education” is now “Children who are absent from education,” aligning with updated terminology and training materials.

13. Preventing Radicalisation Section (Page 157)

The note indicating this section was under review has been removed, with no changes made.

14. CSA Centre of Expertise (Page 163)

A new education-specific landing page offers resources on safety planning and communication with children and parents. A new *Disclosure and Sexual Abuse* course will complement the existing *Harmful Sexual Behaviour* training.

15. Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation (Page 164)

A new link to *The Children’s Society* resource has been added, with additional training materials available for schools and colleges.

While the 2025 updates are largely administrative, they include several important clarifications and new resources. Further significant changes are expected in the final version due in September 2025. The Devon team will be on hand to update you as soon as any more information is available.