



KCSIE 2026 - Consultation Briefing Note



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SAFEGUARDING
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Briefing Note: KCSIE 2026 Consultation

Date: February 2026

Status: Open consultation (closes 22 April 2026)

Overview

The Department for Education has launched its public consultation on the proposed revisions to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) for implementation in September 2026. The consultation outlines updates to statutory expectations for schools and colleges in England, with changes summarised in Annex D of the draft guidance.

The revisions reflect a number of emerging safeguarding risks but with a continued emphasis on multi-agency information sharing.

Key Proposed Changes

Strengthened guidance on grooming, exploitation, and serious violence

The draft includes expanded expectations around responding to risks associated with grooming gangs, criminal exploitation, and concerns involving weapons. (Package 2 Customers have access to the Weapons Policy)

Enhanced focus on misogyny and harmful sexual behaviour

New content addresses misogyny explicitly, alongside further detail on child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour. (Package 2 Customers have access to the Child-on-Child Abuse Policy)

Operation Encompass

The guidance provides more detail on the police duty to notify schools following domestic abuse incidents, reinforcing expectations around timely information sharing and support for affected children.

Information sharing and transfer of safeguarding records

There is strengthened advice on information sharing between safeguarding agencies and clearer expectations for the transfer of safeguarding files when children move settings. (Package 2 customers have access to the Information Sharing Protocol and Transfer of Child Protection Plan Policy)

Mobile phone use and digital safeguarding

The consultation includes updated advice on mobile phone use, reflecting the government's wider focus on digital safety and behaviour (An Updated Mobile Phone Policy will be coming out to package 2 customers ahead of the April 2026 deadline).

Guidance on children who are gender questioning aligning with the GQC guidance

This part of the consultation requires a separate response on the link below.

[Including guidance on children who are questioning their gender in KCSIE - GOV.UK](#)

Updates to Part One and Annex A

The structure of KCSIE continues to evolve, with refreshed information on early help, CSE, serious violence, and staff responsibilities.

Impact on Schools

Policy and Procedure Updates

Schools will need to review and update child protection policies, behaviour policies, mobile phone policies, and record-keeping procedures to reflect the new statutory expectations (Again if you are part of package 2 these documents will come out to you in August 2026 ahead of the final version of KCSIE 2026).

Staff Training and CPD

Schools will need to ensure that in staff training there is an increased emphasis on misogyny, harmful sexual behaviour, and serious violence within updated whole-staff training (This will be part of HH:SM whole school staff training from September 2026).

Designated SLs will need enhanced training on information sharing, exploitation indicators, and Operation Encompass processes (This will be shared in the DSL briefing informally in Summer Term and Formally in Autumn Term).

Curriculum and Culture

Schools may need to strengthen RSHE content around respectful relationships, misogyny, online behaviour, and peer-on-peer abuse.

There will be a renewed focus on culture, language, and staff confidence in challenging harmful attitudes. (There are a number of resources available via the PSHE Association to support with content).

Multi-agency Working

Clearer expectations around information sharing and safeguarding file transfer will require schools to review local processes and ensure compliance with updated protocols. (Package 2 customers have access to the Information Sharing Protocol and Transfer of Child Protection Plan Policy)

Operational Considerations

Mobile phone guidance may require adjustments to supervision, storage, or enforcement arrangements.

Schools in areas with higher contextual safeguarding risks may need to revisit risk assessments and community partnerships.

Please be assured that HH: Safeguarding Matters already hold a library of documents that comply with these expectations, and any further expectations or policies will be included as part of Package 2 from the implementation of KCSIE 2026.

Please do share your thoughts regarding the consultation via the following link:

[Keeping children safe in education: proposed revisions 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

HH: Safeguarding Matters are part of the CAPE (Child Protection in Education) organisation that will be part of a national safeguarding in education response.

[CAPE - Child Protection in Education](#)