

Changes to the Schools' Model Child Protection Policy 2024

Renamed: Keeping Children Safe Policy

Changing the policy's name is at the setting's discretion; the aim is to make the policy more accessible.

All references to Keeping Children Safe in Education have been changed from 2023 to 2024. All references to Working Together to Safeguard Children have been changed from 2018 to 2023.

Contents	Automatically updated
Section 1: Introduction and policy aims	Amended: Second sentence in the second paragraph changed to 'We are committed to providing our children with a sense of belonging and an environment that is welcoming, safe, valuable and respectful.'
Section 2: Definitions	<p><u>Safeguarding definition</u> Amended: change to 'Safeguarding means the process for protecting children from harm and abuse, whether that is within or outside the home, as well as online.' Added: new bullet point - 'providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge'</p> <p><u>The local safeguarding partnership</u> Bullet point 1 Amended: change to 'the chief officer of police for an area falling within the local authority (police)'</p> <p>Bullet point 3 Amended: change to 'the Integrated Care Board for an area within the local authority (health)'</p> <p>Paragraph after the bullet points Amended: replace with 'In Kingston and Richmond, the local safeguarding partnership (KRSCP) considers education as the fourth safeguarding partner. Partners work together to identify the safeguarding needs of the local area and come up with a joint response to address them. Wherever local safeguarding arrangements are referred to in this policy, they mean the arrangements agreed and published by KRSCP or the London Child Protection Procedures and Practice Guidance.</p>
Section 3: Key personnel	No changes
Section 4: The law (legislation) and statutory guidance	<p><u>Introduction paragraph:</u> Amended: Link updated and paragraph reads 'In addition to KRSCP's arrangements and the London Child Protection Procedures and Practice Guidance, name of school also follows the laws and statutory guidance below:'</p> <p><u>Keeping children safe in education guidance</u> Amended: link title was edited updating '2023' to '2024'. Added: New link - Keeping children safe in education 2024 guidance</p> <p><u>Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage 2024</u></p>

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	<p>Amended: link title was edited updating '2023' to '2024'.</p> <p>Added: New link - Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage 2024</p> <p><u>Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance</u></p> <p>Amended: link title was edited updating '2018' to '2023'</p> <p><u>Governance handbook (withdrawn guidance)</u></p> <p>Removed</p>
<p>Section 5: Roles and responsibilities</p>	<p><u>The Governing Board/Board of Trustees:</u></p> <p>Added: to the start of this section, add 'The non-statutory Maintained schools governance guide OR Academy trust governance guide sets out the roles, responsibilities and legal duties for governing boards and boards of trustees.'</p> <p>Remove the link that does not apply to your setting</p> <p><u>5th bullet point</u></p> <p>Amended: Replace with 'The appointed designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is given the additional time, funding, training, resources, and support needed to carry out the role effectively.'</p> <p><u>6th bullet point</u></p> <p>Amended: replace with 'A governor/trustee with senior board level lead takes leadership responsibility for the school's safeguarding arrangements (known as the safeguarding link governor/trustee).'</p> <p><u>16th bullet point</u></p> <p>Amended: replace with 'Procedures are in place to identify and address children absent from education, including persistent absence and when safeguarding concerns coincide.'</p> <p><u>17th bullet point</u></p> <p>Amended: replace with 'There are procedures for reporting and managing safeguarding concerns about adults who work for the school. The chair of governors/chair of trustees will manage any allegations against the headteacher.'</p> <p><u>Last bullet point</u></p> <p>Removed: cut and added to the 12th bullet point.</p> <p><u>The headteacher - 4th bullet point</u></p> <p>Amended: Replace with 'The DSL is given the additional time, funding, training, resources, and support needed to carry out the role effectively and there is cover by an equivalently trained deputy if the DSL is absent.'</p> <p><u>The Designated Safeguarding Lead- 5th bullet point</u></p> <p>Amended: now reads 'suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation'</p> <p><u>All school staff:</u></p> <p>Amended: replace with 'create a culture where children who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) or are gender questioning feel safe, can speak out and share concerns'</p>

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<p>Section 6: What to do if you have concerns about a child's welfare</p>	<p><u>If a child is in immediate danger, or is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm</u> Amended: replace with 'Call the police on 999 if a child is in immediate danger. Anyone can make a referral to children's services if a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Usually, the DSL or deputy makes the referral. For children's services' contact details, click here or go to page 4. If you make a direct referral, you will update the DSL or a deputy as soon as is practically possible.'</p> <p><u>Concerns about a child who is not in immediate danger, or is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm</u></p> <p>Second paragraph Removed: reflected in the two amended paragraphs under the 'referral to children's services' section.</p> <p><u>Early help</u> 1st paragraph Added: add definition of early help as the first sentence - 'Early help is support for children of all ages that improves a family's resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse.' Amended: Change the next sentence to 'At name of school, we are keen to provide support to families as soon as a problem becomes visible.'</p> <p>Last paragraph Amended: paragraph number changed from '10' to '18' in line with the draft version of KCSIE.</p> <p><u>If a child has experienced or is at risk of female genital mutilation - Teachers</u> Added: 'For this section only, teachers means qualified teachers or persons who are employed or engaged to carry out teaching work in schools and other institutions.'</p> <p>All staff should speak to the DSL (or a deputy) when a concern about female genital mutilation (FGM) arises. If a teacher suspects that FGM has been carried out on a child or believes that the child is at risk of FGM, they will follow their internal safeguarding procedures.</p> <p>Teachers who come to know, in the course of their work, that FGM has been carried out on a child must directly report this to the police. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary sanctions. The teacher should tell the DSL or a deputy who will support them in making a direct report to the police. The teacher may need to support a referral to children's services. Staff will never examine children.</p> <p><u>Concerns about nudes or semi-nudes</u> Added: bullet point added under the 'The DSL will make an immediate referral to the police and/or children's services if' section. Add, 'they become aware of a computer-generated indecent image of a child, commonly called 'deep fakes' and 'deep nudes' i.e. a digitally manipulated or artificial intelligence-generated nude and semi-nude'</p> <p><u>Child-on-child abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment</u> Responding to allegations - 1st bullet point Amended: replace with 'Follow the 'handling a disclosure' procedure set out above. You must make a record of the allegation and inform the DSL or a deputy.'</p>

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	<p><u>Concerns about extremism and radicalisation</u> First paragraph Amended: Change sentence defining radicalisation to ‘Radicalisation is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence.’</p> <p>Staff and governors/trustees Amended: replace with ‘Staff and governors/trustees can also raise concerns by emailing counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk, but this is not to be used in emergency situations. If you believe you have information relating to terrorism, you can call the anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321. To report extremism in education, including allegations against staff and institutions, use this link.’</p> <p><u>How children can report concerns</u> Added: this paragraph has been added to the end of the section - ‘We know children try to get their voice heard not just through what they say but how they behave, as pointed out in the NSPCC’s voice of the child briefing. When there are behavioural issues or changes in a child’s behaviour we take a safeguarding first approach, including considering if the child is communicating an unmet need and/or abuse. For children who are pre-verbal or non-verbal, observing behaviour and presentation is even more important for understanding the child’s lived experience.’</p>
Flowchart	No changes
Section 7: Confidentiality	<p>2nd paragraph - second sentence Amended & added: link to the data protection toolkit added. Change sentence to ‘Staff are aware they can look at the data protection in schools toolkit or speak to a member of the safeguarding team if they are unsure about sharing information.’</p> <p>Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance Amended: changed ‘2018’ to ‘2023’</p>
Section 8: Record Keeping	<p>1st paragraph Amended: change to ‘Each child has a safeguarding file where all safeguarding concerns and referrals are stored. The designated safeguarding lead is responsible for keeping written records of all concerns, discussions and decisions, including the rationale for those decisions. Records reflect the reason why referrals are or are not made to another agency, such as children’s services or the Prevent program. Safeguarding files will be stored securely and access will only be given to those who need it.’</p>
Section 9: Concerns of allegations about adults in our school	See Appendix 2 below.
Section 10: Whistleblowing	No changes
Section 11: Online safety and the use of smart devices	<p><u>We fulfil our aims by</u> Added: new bullet point - ‘ensuring appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place on the school’s network and devices’</p> <p>Removed: ‘In addition, see our filtering and monitoring section below.’</p> <p><u>Mobile phones and smart technology</u> Added: ‘(including smart watches)’ added to the title</p>

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	<p>Amended: Many children have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks, therefore children could be harmed or harm others online when at school. This may include sexually harassing, bullying and sharing indecent images (often via large chat groups). To protect children from these risks while they are at our school, our approach to mobile and smart technology is</p> <p>Attention needed in response to the updated EYFS guidance: <i>if your setting provides early years, this policy must cover how mobile phones, cameras and other electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities are used in the setting. The linked guidance may help: Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations</i></p> <p>Attention needed in response to the mobile phones in schools guidance: <i>The non-statutory mobile phones in schools guidance states that schools should develop a mobile phone policy, as part of their behaviour policy, that prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (for example the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video) throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. Signpost to the setting’s mobile phone policy in this section and ensure the section is consistent with your policy.</i></p>
Section 12: Children potentially at greater risk of harm	No changes
Section 13: Identified areas of particular risk for our school	No changes
Section 14: Lettings and off-site arrangements	<p><u>Extended school arrangements - 2nd paragraph</u></p> <p>Amended: Changed to ‘When our children attend an alternative provision provider, we continue to be responsible for their safety and wellbeing. We will satisfy ourselves that the placement can meet the child’s needs and obtain written confirmation that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working at the establishment, i.e. those checks that we would otherwise perform on our own staff. We follow the statutory guidance for alternative provision and Achieving for Children's alternative provision policy.’</p>
Section 15: Training	<p><u>All staff - our training ensures that staff</u></p> <p>1st bullet point</p> <p>Amended: changed to ‘can spot the signs of possible abuse, neglect and exploitation’</p> <p>6th bullet point</p> <p>Amended: word ‘drawn’ replaced with ‘radicalised’</p>
Section 16: Teaching and learning	No changes
Section 17: Linked policies	No changes
Appendix 1: Types of abuse and specific safeguarding concerns	<p><u>Abuse definition</u></p> <p>Amended: replace with ‘Abuse is where somebody fails to prevent harm (neglect) or causes harm (abuse). It can take place anywhere, including online and outside of the home. Harm can include witnessing ill treatment of others, for example seeing, hearing, or experiencing the effects of domestic abuse. We are aware that safeguarding issues are rarely standalone</p>

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	<p>events and cannot be covered by one definition or one label alone. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap. Our staff will be aware that technology is a significant part of many safeguarding issues.'</p> <p><u>Specific safeguarding concerns</u> First paragraph Amended: This section is based on Annex B of KCSIE. Annex B includes further information about other safeguarding issues to be aware of. All concerns under this section should be addressed in line with the section 6 of this document, unless stated otherwise.</p> <p><u>Children absent from education</u> Amended: First sentence changed to 'All staff will be aware that children missing from education or absent persistently, without explanation and/or for prolonged periods can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues including neglect, child sexual and child criminal exploitation - particularly county lines.'</p> <p><u>Child sexual exploitation subheading</u> Added: In the last paragraph after the bullet points, add 'See the Sharing nudes and semi-nudes section below for details about 'sextortion''</p> <p><u>Serious violence</u> Added: sentence added before the 'useful links' section. Add 'Being the victim of, carrying out or allegedly carrying out serious violence (e.g. knife crime) may indicate that a child is involved in county lines.'</p> <p><u>Children who run away or go missing from home or care</u> Amended: 'education' added to the title and first line to reflect KCSIE changes.</p> <p><u>Sharing nudes and semi-nudes</u> Amended: 'UKCIS, 2020' updated to 'UKCIS, 2024' and link updated.</p> <p>Added: Paragraph added at the end of this section to cover the rise in UK sextortion cases affecting children. Add 'Children might share nudes because of threats and/or pressures from relationships. They might also want to send nudes, but this is usually because they believe they will get something in return. Sextortion is when someone threatens to share or distribute nude or semi-nude images of another person if they don't do what is asked. It can happen to anybody, but a large amount of cases involve teenage boys. The explicit imagery may be used to blackmail the young person into sending more images, money, or in some cases, into recruiting more victims. Images can be both real or generated by artificial intelligence.</p> <p>We are aware of and in response to incidents will use the alert guidance and support provided by the National Crime Agency and CEOP.'</p> <p><u>Preventing radicalisation and extremism</u> 1st paragraph Amended: change to 'While some children are more susceptible, any child can be radicalised into terrorism. We take our statutory duty to prevent children from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism seriously.'</p> <p>Radicalisation definition Amended: change to 'Radicalisation is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence. It can occur over a period of time or quickly.'</p>

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	<p>Sentence leading into the 1st set of bullet points Amended: Change to 'To prevent children from being radicalised into terrorism, we make sure'</p> <p>6th bullet under newly worded title 'To prevent children from being radicalised into terrorism, we make sure' Amended: Change to 'We perform a risk assessment which assesses how our learners or staff may be at risk of being radicalised into terrorism (including online) using the counter terrorism local profile and updates from the local partnership.'</p>
Appendix 2: Allegations against staff and low-level concerns procedure	Removed: as stated in the last model policy update, this section's content has been removed. It was not or intended to be an effective or suitable low-level concern policy or statement of procedures about allegations made against staff. Last year's version can be used as a starting point and added to accordingly.