



Factsheet – March 2025

Changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education for 2024

Main technical changes to be aware of

The **definition of safeguarding has been expanded** to bring it in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children:

A new line has been added: Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge

In the bullet on protecting children maltreatment, the guidance has clarified that this is **within or outside the home, including online**

There are also a few new **early help indicators**. You should now also be alert to any child who:

Has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from schools, colleges and in alternative provision or a pupil referral unit

Has a parent or carer in custody (previously it was 'family member in prison'), or is affected by parental offending

Is frequently missing/goes missing from education, home or care (the word 'education' has been added)

There have also been the following small changes:

When referring to 'abuse and neglect', the guidance now also includes 'exploitation' throughout

The definition of abuse now also has 'including where they see, hear or experience its effects' in relation to domestic abuse

'Unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education' has replaced the phrase 'deliberately missing education' when referring to safeguarding issues

The indicators of county lines have been updated. Be aware of children who:

- Go missing **from school or home** and are subsequently found in areas away from their own
- Have been the perpetrator or **alleged** perpetrator of serious violence (e.g. knife crime), as well as the victim

2 sections are still under review

The section on children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or gender questioning

This remains under review until the response to the gender questioning children consultation and final guidance have been published

The phrase 'gender questioning' has replaced the word 'trans'

KCSIE says that schools should take a cautious approach to support a gender questioning child and:

- Consider the broad range of the individual's needs
- Do this in partnership with their parents (except in rare circumstances where involving parents would bring a significant risk of harm to the child)
- Include any clinical advice that is available
- Consider how to address wider vulnerabilities, such as the risk of bullying

It's also important for staff to 'create a culture' where pupils can speak out or share any concerns with staff (previously it was to 'provide a safe space' for pupils to do this).

Preventing radicalisation

This section is still under review after the government published a [new definition of extremism](#) on 14 March 2024

For now, the changes include:

- An updated definition of radicalisation, which is defined as 'the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence'
- 'Susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism' has replaced the wording 'susceptible to an extremist ideology'
- When referring to the Prevent duty, 'the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism' has replaced 'the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'
- Some information around possible indicators has been removed. Instead, refer to the DfE's guidance on [managing risk of radicalisation in your education setting](#)