

Model Policy Additional Notes

Guide to highlighted areas in the model policy

Notes for DSL to aid policy updates and amendments

Aspects that need to be tailored to school such as adding in school name, school approach details or policy names.

Important: once all edits have been made to your model policy, please update the Table of Contents. You can do this by highlighting the table and selecting 'Update table' at the top of the contents box. Then on the pop-up box select 'Update entire table' and 'OK'.

Updates made to align to published KCSIE from September 2026 included in summary of changes below and across the policy

The model policy changes have been made:

Our model policy has been significantly updated to align with KCSIE 2026, Working together to safeguard children 2026 and DfE guidance that has been revised or introduced since September 2025, **including allergy safety in schools, restrictive interventions, suspensions and exclusions, EYFS framework, mobile phones in schools and removal of the supervision exemption for volunteers. Recently passed Acts of Parliament have also been added, including the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill (2026).**

Schools will need to look across their policies that relate or a linked to this safeguarding policy, such as suspensions and exclusions, child-on-child abuse, online safety, recruitment of volunteers and restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force.

KCSIE 2026 changes include:

- The simpler version of Part One, previously set out in Annex A, has been removed. The additional information on safeguarding issues is now Annex A and the DSL job description Annex B (this too has been amended, primarily in relation to the responsibilities of information sharing).
- New responsibility on schools to promote an inclusive, anti-discriminatory culture as part of their safeguarding responsibilities
- The section on online safety, which includes the revised definitions of **the 4 Cs (Content, Contact, Conduct, Commerce) of online safety** and refers to safeguarding and AI, has expectations for oversight of filtering and monitoring and cybersecurity
- Reference to early years and safeguarding and the increased safeguarding and welfare requirements (section 3) of the EYFS 2026 statutory framework
- **Revised sexual abuse definition widened from "forcing or enticing" to "forcing, causing or inciting", plus greater emphasis that children are more likely to know their abuser than not, and that under-13s can never legally consent to sexual activity**
- New sections on sport, toilets and changing rooms and showers (secondary only), young carers, medical needs conditions, LGBT, gender questioning, use of images and video
- Children who are young carers are now considered vulnerable and therefore identified to support, if needed

- Updated guidance on record keeping and sharing information about transfer of pupil files between schools
- **Revision relating to changes based on Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, including role of Family Help, which is now a new section**
- Additional requirements for ensuring safeguarding in alternative provision – this aligns to the February 2026 guidance for schools [Alternative provision - GOV.UK](#). The DfE has also published (31 August 2026) voluntary standards for unregistered provision [Non-school alternative provision: voluntary national standards - GOV.UK](#) – schools may wish to make use of these if they place a child in such provision
- Restrictive interventions updated guidance referred to and text amend to align with the updated DfE guidance [Use of reasonable force in schools - GOV.UK](#) which came into force on 1 April 2026
- Data Protection- this is a new section in the model Redbridge safeguarding policy
- Volunteers is a new section in policy and covers the revised guidance for volunteers following Crime and Policing Act coming into force in April 2026, with the removal of supervised category for volunteers
- Essentially all volunteers as classed as those undertaking regulated activity and require an enhanced DBS check. A barred list check should be undertaken for existing volunteers or anyone who meets the regulated activity threshold for an enhanced DBS check
- **Volunteers and staff are not permitted to start without an enhanced DBS being completed (note: see appendix 2 of the model policy)**
- Trainee teachers are included in Part 4 of KCSIE 2026 – the guidance is in relation to allegations and concerns against staff
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026, Operation Encompass is given significantly greater prominence following its transition to a mandatory statutory duty
- In Keeping children safe in education 2026 (KCSIE 2026), paragraph 17 focuses on prejudice-based harm and the early identification of children who may benefit from support
- Clarified child leaving and joining procedures including child protection information sharing