

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026

Current statutory guidance and summary of the September 2026 updates

Bonneygrove and Millbrook Primary Federation | September 2026

STATUS: CURRENT

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 came into force on 1 September 2026 and replaces the September 2025 version. It applies to schools and colleges in England.

1. Official current KCSIE 2026

The complete current statutory guidance is published by the Department for Education as a 198-page PDF. Use the official GOV.UK copy below so that staff and governors always access the authoritative version:

[Open/download the official KCSIE 2026 PDF](#)

[GOV.UK KCSIE publication page](#)

[KCSIE 2026 Part One - overview for all staff](#)

Important staff requirement: all staff are now expected to read Part One in full. The previous condensed Part One in Annex A has been removed. The DfE overview is a quick-reference aid only and does not replace Part One.

2. What changed for 2026?

The following is a practical Federation summary of the substantive changes identified by the Department for Education in Annex C of KCSIE 2026. It should be used alongside, not instead of, the statutory guidance.

Whole-document changes

EYFS section 3 is explicitly referenced alongside KCSIE for school-based nursery and Reception provision; terminology on nudes/semi-nudes has been updated, including AI-generated images; the condensed Part One has been removed; terminology now distinguishes universal/community early help from targeted Family Help; definitions relating to sexual abuse and sexual offences have been updated; references to misogyny are strengthened; child-on-child abuse is retitled to include harassment and violence.

Part One - safeguarding information for all staff

Expanded Family Help and early-help expectations; broader indicators staff should notice; modern slavery added; extra-familial harm includes stalking and financial exploitation; child-to-parent/caregiver abuse is recognised; emotional and sexual abuse examples are clearer; overlapping safeguarding issues are emphasised; child-on-child abuse content is strengthened; CCE/CSE and county lines content is expanded; mental health and serious violence sections are substantially updated; LADO consideration and trainee-teacher references are strengthened.

Part Two - management of safeguarding

Data protection content reflects the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025; new material covers sport and safeguarding requirements for school premises; schools should have robust DSL cover arrangements; information-sharing and risk-assessment guidance is expanded; racism and other prejudice-based harm are strengthened; online-risk categories are updated; new guidance covers safe/effective use of generative AI; mobile-phone policy is addressed; filtering and monitoring effectiveness should be reviewed at least once each academic year with checks recorded; alternative provision and reasonable force/restrictive intervention content is updated; mental-health support is revised; new/expanded content covers young carers, SEND barriers, medical conditions, and LGB or gender-questioning children.

Part Three - safer recruitment

Regulated activity has been rewritten and the supervision exemption removed following the Crime and Policing Act 2026. Volunteer roles must therefore be reviewed carefully. EYFS settings have strengthened wording around receiving the required enhanced DBS/barred-list information before relevant work begins. Volunteer, visitor, self-employed, work-experience and duty-to-refer sections are updated, and references to checking teacher records are modernised.

Part Four - concerns or allegations about adults

Trainee teachers are explicitly included. The guidance clarifies shared safeguarding responsibilities where supply teachers, trainee teachers and contracted staff are provided through third-party organisations, and adds expectations for handling concerns about trainee teachers.

Part Five - child-on-child sexual harassment and sexual violence

Part Five is substantially rewritten around the continuum from harmful sexual behaviour to sexual violence. All incidents involving sharing nude or semi-nude images require a safeguarding response, whether consensual or non-consensual. Guidance on HSB, consent, age-appropriate sexual development, universal/community early help and referrals to Family Help is expanded.

Annex A - further information

The old condensed Part One is removed. Further information now includes expanded cybercrime/CMA content, updated domestic abuse and Operation Encompass material, parental online-safety/screen-time support, temporary accommodation notification duties, Channel information-sharing clarification, serious-violence updates and further DSL support resources.

Annex B - role of the DSL

Stronger expectations for reliable DSL cover when the DSL is unavailable; expanded information-sharing guidance; and updates relating to CCE/CSE indicators and Operation Encompass.

Former regulated-activity annex

The former supervision-exemption annex has been removed because the Crime and Policing Act 2026 changed regulated activity. The DfE summary states that a volunteer in a school/college role involving teaching, training, instructing or supervising children on more than 3 days in a month or overnight is now in regulated activity.

3. Immediate Federation actions/checks

- Ensure every member of staff has received and read KCSIE 2026 Part One in full, with a recorded declaration/confirmation.
- Update the Federation Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and staff handbook so references and terminology match KCSIE 2026.
- Review volunteer roles and DBS/barred-list checks in light of removal of the supervision exemption.
- Confirm robust DSL/DDSL cover arrangements, including absence and out-of-hours/term activities where relevant.
- Review safeguarding record-transfer procedures for in-year moves and transitions, including structured summaries and prompt review by the receiving school.
- Review filtering and monitoring arrangements at least annually, ensure checks cover internet-connected devices in relevant locations, and retain a record of checks.
- Review online-safety content to include generative AI, current online-risk categories and the Federation mobile-phone approach.
- Update staff training to cover Family Help, modern slavery, child-on-child harassment/violence, mental health, serious violence, young carers, SEND/medical vulnerabilities, CCE/CSE, prejudice-based harm and harmful sexual behaviour.
- Review safer-recruitment, visitor, contractor, supply staff and trainee-teacher procedures against the revised guidance.
- Ensure governors receive a briefing on the 2026 changes and can evidence oversight and challenge.

4. Source and use

Source: Department for Education, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, September 2026, including Annex C (Summary of changes). The statutory PDF remains the authoritative document. This Word document is a practical summary for Federation use and does not replace the statutory guidance.

[Department for Education - Keeping children safe in education](#)