

KCSIE 2026 – Changes to the Published KCSIE

Section	Pre-publication version	Final Published Version	Paragraph (page number)	Content update	Action
Throughout guidance	Updated assault by penetration and sexual assault definitions.	Updated the definition of “sexual abuse” to mirror the definition used in Working Together to Safeguard Children.	28 (14)	The updated definition clarifies that: • acts of penetration may be committed ‘with part of a person’s body or an object’ • sexual abuse can ‘take place online as well as offline’ • ‘Children can be sexually abused within the family, an institution or a community setting, and are more likely to know their abuser than not.’ • ‘There are specific offences for children under 13, who can never provide valid consent to sexual activity and there are specific offences which make clear that sexual activity with a child under 16 is an offence, regardless of whether they agreed to that activity.’	Updates are required to the safeguarding policy
Part 1	<i>No flowchart update referenced.</i>	Updated flowchart correcting “Early Help to “Family Help”, and improving accessibility.	(27 and 28)	N/A	Review safeguarding processes (including posters and documentation) to ensure alignment with the flowchart.
Part 2	Added “racism” and “derogatory behaviour or other forms of physical violence and conflict.”	Minor revised content on racism and other prejudice-based behaviour to mirror expectations in Working Together to Safeguard Children.	17 (11)	Staff awareness expectations outlined, including the impact on children and how concerns raised should be responded to.	Updates are required to the safeguarding policy and behaviour policy to reflect this updated wording.

			32 (15) 37 (16) 193 (51-52) 119 (35)	Added into the child-on-child abuse section, and within the definition (2nd bullet point) which now separates ‘bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)’ and ‘discriminatory behaviour, including racism, faith-targeted abuse, and other prejudice-based incidents’ Governors will need to ensure that the definition has been updated in the safeguarding policy. Included with the ‘Whole school and college approach to safeguarding’, which includes governors.	Consider reviewing whether changes are required within the Staff Code of Conduct.
Part 3	Regulated activity section rewritten for clarity and to include volunteers. Regulated activity table updated to remove the ‘supervision exemption’ from regulated activity.	Minor change to Regulated activity section to make clearer that where schools are also subject to the EYFS framework, staff or volunteers must not be permitted to begin working within the setting covered by the EYFS framework until the school has received the enhanced DBS certificate, including barred list information.	326 (84-85) 385 (97-98)	Paragraph 313 also states that obtaining a children’s barred list check separately for an individual before their DBS certificate is available does not apply to EYFS settings, including maintained nursery schools. This expectation is the same for volunteers in the EYFS, including existing volunteers. This means that where volunteers are already supporting in regulated activity in an EYFS setting, but they do not have an enhanced DBS with a children’s barred list	Review safer recruitment policies and procedures for EYFS staff and volunteers. Review DBS checks for existing volunteers working in regulated activity within the EYFS.

				check, they will need to stop until this has been obtained.	
Annex A	Temporary accommodation notification duty added	Additional section added on “Temporary accommodation notification duty”, including updated link.	(167)	Local housing authorities should, with parental consent, notify schools and colleges when a child is placed in temporary accommodation. This will enable schools and colleges to safeguard and promote the welfare of affected children as swiftly as possible.	Review <u>guidance for LAs</u> on the temporary accommodation duty.
Annex A	<i>No knife possession guidance referenced</i>	Link to Home Office child knife possession guidance included.	(172)	Schools and colleges should review <u>the Government's expectations</u> when a child is found in possession of a knife or bladed article.	Upon review, consider any updates required to the safeguarding policy and processes.