

Online Safety within Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018

On the 17th May 2018 the Department for Education (DfE) published the updated 'Keeping children safe in education' (KCSIE) guidance ready for implementation from the 3rd September 2018. Schools and Colleges must comply with KCSIE 2016 until that date.

KCSIE is statutory guidance from the DfE; all schools and colleges must have regard to it when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; schools and colleges should comply with the guidance unless exceptional circumstances arise.

This briefing for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and educational setting leadership teams highlights the points regarding the changes in relation to online safety.

The document focuses on elements of KCSIE 2018 relevant to **online safety** specifically and highlights additions and changes from KCSIE 2016. It is recommended that DSLs and leaders read the entire KCSIE 2018 document when evaluating their current safeguarding practice and considering required actions for September 2018.

Summary of key changes related to online safety:

- All staff should undergo safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety) at induction
- The updated guidance includes a new section (Part 5) on Child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment, which can occur both on and offline
- New or more detailed information on safeguarding issues, which can include online issues
- Online safety is specifically referenced as part of the responsibility for the DSL within Annex B; The role of the DSL
- There is an expectation that DSLs will access appropriate training to ensure they are able to understand the unique risks associated with online safety, recognise the additional risks that children with SEN and disabilities (SEND) face online and have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online
- Additional links have been added to supporting materials in annex C, online safety

Annex C: Online safety (p92-94)

- The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation – technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm. An effective approach to online safety empowers a school or college to protect and educate the whole school or college community in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate any incident where appropriate.
- [This clearly identifies online safety as a safeguarding responsibility and highlights the need for settings to ensure that all members of their communities can develop appropriate understanding and skills to prepare them to respond to online safety issues.](#)
- The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into three areas of risk:

content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; for example, pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views;

contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example, commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults; and

conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying.

- Online safety messages shared with staff and children should be appropriate and up-to-date and reflect the full range of risks as identified by the 3 C's; content, contact and conduct. The advice should empower them to be able to respond to a range of online threats as well as opportunities.
- Settings should develop and implement a curriculum that is appropriate to the needs of their learners, that covers a range of online safety issues identified by the 3 C's (not just "grooming" by strangers).

Action points:

- Are staff aware of the 3 C's: content, contact and conduct?
Does the online safety curriculum cover the full range of potential online risks which children may encounter?

Jonathan Taylor MSc

Online Safety & Social Media Consultant

besafeonline@ymail.com