

RSAT Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Version 2 Update Summary

This document summarises all substantive updates highlighted in purple within Version 2 of the policy and how they align with statutory guidance and/or reiterate best practice.

Executive Summary

The KCSIE 1st September 2026 updates do not significantly alter existing safeguarding procedures. The updates primarily strengthen alignment with KCSIE 2026 through enhanced recognition of prejudice-based harm, inclusion, discrimination, revised sexual abuse definitions, and additional content relating to knife possession, serious violence and extra-familial harm.

The only notable operational expectation for schools is that safeguarding responses involving child knife possession should take account of the Government Child Knife Possession Offences guidance. The EYFS recruitment amendment is an operational recruitment clarification.

1. Sexual Abuse Definition Updated

Policy Location: Appendix 2: Key Safeguarding Definitions (Page 28)

Update: The previous sexual abuse definition has been replaced with the revised statutory definition including forcing, causing or inciting a child; penetrative and non-penetrative acts; online and offline abuse; grooming; technology-facilitated abuse; recognition that women and children can perpetrate abuse; and clarification relating to offences involving children under 13 and under 16.

Purpose of update: Directly reflects the revised KCSIE 2026 and Working Together 2026 wording and strengthens understanding of child-on-child sexual abuse and technology facilitated abuse.

2. Prejudice-Based Harm and Discrimination

Policy Location: Staff Responsibilities (Page 5)

Update: New expectation for staff to recognise prejudice-based harm including racism, faith-based prejudice and discrimination and understand its impact upon welfare, wellbeing and mental health.

Purpose of update: Reflects new KCSIE emphasis on recognising prejudice-based harm, racism, discrimination and their safeguarding impact.

3. Inclusive and Anti-Discriminatory Safeguarding Culture

Policy Location: Local Governing Committee Responsibilities (Page 7)

Update: New governance responsibility requiring schools to develop an inclusive and anti-discriminatory safeguarding culture where racism and discriminatory behaviour are recognised, challenged and addressed.

Purpose of update: Aligns with KCSIE 2026 expectations that safeguarding culture is inclusive and actively challenges discriminatory behaviour.

4. Gender Questioning Children Clarification

Policy Location: Taking Action (Page 9)

Update: Parental involvement wording amended to state parental involvement unless, in rare circumstances, doing so would place the child at greater risk of harm.

Purpose of update: Improves alignment with KCSIE 2026 and safeguarding decision making principles, where ordinarily parents/carers are involved.

5. Knife Possession, Serious Violence and Extra-Familial Harm

Policy Location: Responding to Pupil Safeguarding Concerns (Page 10)

Update: Schools should consider Home Office and Ministry of Justice guidance for Child Knife Possession Offences.

Purpose of update: Highlight a resource and step required for schools when managing an incident related to Knife Possession

6. Child-on-Child Abuse Updates

Policy Location: Child-on-Child Abuse Section (Page 13)

Update: Added discriminatory behaviour, racism, faith-targeted abuse and prejudice-based incidents as explicit forms of child-on-child abuse. Additional wording clarifies responses to sexual violence, support for the child alleged to have caused harm, and consultation with Police and Children's Social Care.

Purpose of update: Supports KCSIE 2026 focus on discrimination, safeguarding culture and robust responses to sexual violence.

7. Record Transfer Clarification and Attendance

Policy Location: Confidentiality and Information Sharing (Page 16) and Attendance (Page 16)

Update: Confidentiality and Information Sharing - Expectation to record the new school and expected start date when transferring safeguarding records within Record Keeping Procedures. Attendance - Clarifies following attendance and safeguarding procedures where concerns relate to transfer to a new setting, requests for alternative arrangements.

Purpose of update: Clarified record keeping and safeguarding processes supporting effective safeguarding record transfer and / or monitoring if their setting or education provision changes, without the safeguarding policy repeating attendance procedures.

8. Online Safety and Filtering Monitoring Update

Policy Location: Online Safety (Page 19)

Update: Filtering and monitoring testing now explicitly references testing across a range of internet-connected devices.

Purpose of update: Strengthens assurance arrangements and reflects KCSIE expectations.

9. EYFS Recruitment Update

Policy Location: Safer Recruitment, Allegations Against Staff and Low-Level Concerns (Page 20)

Update: Clarifies that staff or volunteers must not start work in EYFS until the enhanced DBS certificate, including barred list information, has been received.

Purpose of update: Reflects KCSIE and Director of People confirmed inclusion of this specifically within the policy. Operational recruitment update rather than a safeguarding process change however, it links to safer recruitment and therefore, is essential to be included.

Recruitment Team have been informed of this update KCSIE 2026 and have updated their processes.

10. Related Policies Update

Policy Location: Related Policies and Documentation (Page 22)

Update: Intimate Care Policy added to related policies list.

11. Administrative Updates

Policy History (Page 22), Local Governing Body amended to Local Governing Committee throughout, and registered office details amended.

TED questions (Page 32) updated to reflect more open style questioning.