

Termly Safeguarding Briefing for Schools

Is your school up to date and ready for its next safeguarding inspection?

Following a meeting with senior HMIs and using feedback from local inspections, the following points highlight the most recent focus of inspections for safeguarding...

- Safeguarding is tested against the requirements of the “Keeping Children Safe in Education” guidance.
- Safeguarding is about culture, not ticking boxes. Are all staff (including any contractors), committed to it eg catering, supply, lunchtime supervisors, cleaners? Have they received up to date training? Was it effective? Have you recorded the names and dates?
- Does the CP policy have an impact on practice? Has it been adapted to suit your school’s context? Is it a ‘living’ document?
- Do DSLs and their Deputies have the role outlined in their job description? ie as set out in Annex B of KCSIE.
- Records— inspectors may sample 3 or 4 cases to track through for appropriate speed of decision-making, actions taken, timeliness, precision, accuracy, sufficient detail, clarity— rigorous enough for someone else to pick up and use.
- Do children feel safe? Are they safe? Who will they tell? Do they tell?
- Absence—may select the 5 pupils with the lowest attendance—are there plans for support? Where are the children? Are they safe? How swiftly and rigorously is this followed up?
- Alternative Provision—Why are they used? Which ones are used? Should it be registered as a school with the DfE? (ie 5 or more full-time pupils or just one LAC or one with an EHCP — number includes pupils from all schools using it). Are they safe? Have you checked? Have safer recruitment processes been carried out? What is the ongoing plan for the student?
- Do any pupils have part-time timetables? —how often is this reviewed? What’s the plan for getting the pupil back towards full-time? Is it building up? Are they safe when not in school? Are they just on the streets? How do you know?
- How safe are the vulnerable students? Eg looked after, previously looked after, SEND, children on a CP/CIN plan.
- Use of reasonable force— if used, is it reasonable? Have staff been adequately trained to know what this looks like?
- Radicalisation and Extremism—have you evaluated the risk? Do leaders understand what the risks are, including online?
- Safer Recruitment checks? Single Central Record—no gaps!
- Is there a curriculum for online safety? Has the new DfE guidance been accessed (see overleaf)?
- Do DSLs and Deputies have supervision to help manage safeguarding cases? - Is it effective? Who carries it out? - another trained colleague, in DSL team meetings, headteacher?

Draft—Keeping Children Safe in Education—DfE September 2019

The draft revised guidance (link above) has not changed significantly but now includes reference to the new crime of “upskirting” and serious violence as a potential concern often associated with drug gangs, County Lines etc. References to LSCBs has also been replaced with the new Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements.

LCC Example Child Protection Policy for schools —July 2019

A new example policy has been amended in line with the new draft guidance and can be obtained by email from Simon or Ann or downloaded from the LTS website (Safeguarding in Education pages). <http://www.leicestershiretradedservices.org.uk/#>

Teaching online safety in school—DfE June 2019

This new guidance (link above) is much more comprehensive than previous documents and sets out the expectations for an e-safety curriculum. It is recommended that schools carry out a curriculum review using this guidance as a starting point.

Female Genital Mutilation: Guidance for schools— National FGM Centre

This new guidance for schools (link above) sets out how to respond to concerns regarding girls at risk of FGM. It is simple to use and a useful guidance for DSLs and Deputies.

“Safer working practice for those working with children in education settings” - May 2019

LCCversion

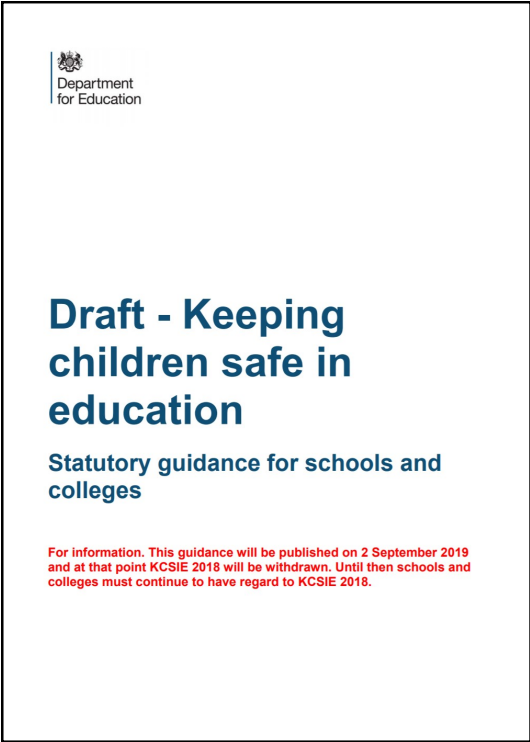
This revised code of conduct is available on the LTS website or by email from Simon or Ann. It has been slightly revised to stay in line with current guidance.

New Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is being replaced on 29th September with the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LRSCP). Further details are on the LSCB website—link above. Schools will be designated as a relevant partner and will continue to have a statutory duty to co-operate.

Draft document for consultation — “Thresholds for access to services for children and families in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland”

This draft document was attached to the email sent to schools with this briefing. It is open for consultation and there is a survey which schools are invited to complete by 22nd July 2019 in order to give feedback. https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Thesh_Q



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