

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026

Part 1: Safeguarding information for all staff



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Every member of staff plays a vital role in keeping children safe and promoting their welfare. A child-centred approach should underpin all decisions and actions.

What every member of staff should know

All staff must:

- ✓ Understand the school's safeguarding systems and policies.
- ✓ Know who the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSLs are.
- ✓ Receive safeguarding and online safety training.
- ✓ Be aware of how to report concerns and seek advice.

If a child shares a concern:

LISTEN

Listen carefully.
Take what they say seriously.

REASSURE

Reassure them they have done the right thing.
Never promise confidentiality.

REPORT

Report concerns immediately.

Remember:

Children may not always be ready or able to tell someone they are being harmed.

Be alert to vulnerability

Some children may need additional support, including those who:

Have SEND or disabilities.

Experience mental health difficulties.

Are young carers.

Go missing from education.

Are vulnerable to exploitation or criminal activity.

Experience domestic abuse or family challenges.

To learn more
scan to go to our briefing or
to listen to our Audiobook
versions of Part 1 and Annex B
Just scan the QR codes.



Our briefing



Our audiobook

Recognise the signs of harm

Staff should understand the four main categories of abuse:

01

Physical Abuse

02

Emotional Abuse

03

Sexual Abuse

04

Neglect

Safeguarding concerns can occur both online and offline and may involve multiple forms of harm at the same time.

Key Risks staff should know about

- Child-on-child abuse.
- Child criminal exploitation (CCE).
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE).
- Domestic abuse.
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- Serious violence.
- Online safety and AI concerns.
- Mental health concerns linked to safeguarding.

If you have a concern

Adopt the mindset:

"It could happen here."

If you are worried about a child:



01

Act immediately.

02

Speak to the DSL or Deputy DSL.

03

Share information promptly.

04

Do not assume someone else will take action.

04

Always act in the child's best interests.

Record and Share

Good safeguarding relies on:

- Clear and factual recording.
- Timely information sharing.
- Secure storage of records.
- Professional curiosity and follow-up.

Concerns about adults

All staff should know how to report – through their low level concerns and whistleblowing procedures:

- Concerns about colleagues.
- Unsafe practice.
- Low-level concerns.
- Safeguarding failures within the organisation.

Key Messages to Remember

- ✓ Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- ✓ Always put the child first.
- ✓ Listen, reassure, report and record.
- ✓ Be professionally curious.
- ✓ Recognise signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- ✓ Share concerns immediately.
- ✓ Keep accurate records.
- ✓ Speak to the DSL if you are unsure.
- ✓ Remember: It could happen here.

Read the full guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education>

