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Statutory guidance

Keeping children safe in education

Statutory guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding children and safer recruitment.

Published 26 March 2015

Last updated 3 September 2018 — see all updates

From:

Department for Education (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>)

Applies to:

England

Documents

Keeping children safe in education: for schools and colleges

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/737289/Keeping_Children_Safe_in_Education_Sept_2018.pdf)

Ref: DFE-00248-2018 PDF, 1.24MB, 112 pages

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Keeping children safe in education: for school and college staff (part 1)

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/737606/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_part_1_Sept_2018.pdf)

Ref: DFE-00247-2018 PDF, 449KB, 28 pages

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Regulated activity in relation to children: scope

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550197/Regulated_activity_in_relation_to_children.pdf)

Ref: DFE-58201-2012 PDF, 233KB, 10 pages

Details

This guidance applies to all schools and is for:

- headteachers, teachers and staff
- governing bodies, proprietors and management committees

It sets out the legal duties you must follow to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18 in schools and colleges.

All school and college staff should read part 1 of this guidance. Part 1 of the guidance is also available as a standalone document.

'Regulated activity in relation to children: scope' describes work that a barred person (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>) must not do.

We have also published guidance on 'Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006>).

Statutory guidance sets out what schools must do to comply with the law. You should follow the guidance unless you have a very good reason not to.

Published 26 March 2015

Last updated 3 September 2018 + show all updates

1. 3 September 2018 Updated 'Keeping children safe in education'. Updates include changes to information for all staff (part 1) and the management of safeguarding (part 2) and a new section covering child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment (part 5). Annex H provides a table of all changes.
2. 17 May 2018 Added 2 new guidance documents due to take effect from 3 September 2018.
3. 5 September 2016 Updated 'Keeping children safe in education'. Updates include changes to information for all staff (part 1) and the management of safeguarding (part 2). Annex H provides a table of all changes.
4. 26 May 2016 Added 'Keeping children safe in education: for schools and colleges - guidance from 5 September 2016'.
5. 12 May 2016 Added 'Regulated activity in relation to children: scope' document.

6. 22 July 2015 Both documents updated to reflect the new prevent duty, to emphasise responsibilities concerning children missing from education, and to provide more content on female genital mutilation.
7. 18 June 2015 In 'Regulated activity' section, corrected the link to the factual note on regulated activity in relation to children.
8. 26 March 2015 First published.

Related content

Safeguarding pupils (<https://www.gov.uk/education/safeguarding-pupils>)

Keeping children safe in education, including guidance around drugs, radicalisation and gangs.

- Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006>)
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges>)
- Working together to safeguard children (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>)

Collection

- Secondary school teachers: useful information (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/secondary-school-teachers-useful-information>)
- Primary school teachers: useful information (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/primary-school-teachers-useful-information>)
- School leadership teams: useful information (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/school-leadership-teams-useful-information>)
- Schools: statutory guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statutory-guidance-schools>)