

New Ofsted Inspecting Safeguarding Guidance

Ofsted have updated and republished their guidance to inspectors on 'Inspecting Safeguarding in early years, education and skills' to reflect the changes to the latest version of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', coming into force in September.

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Although the guidance is for inspectors, rather than statutory guidance, it is essential for any schools/settings in preparation for their inspections to be familiar with this.

A summary of the changes is listed below:

Changes made - August 2016

- New reference to the 'Prevent' duty guidance for schools and colleges
- New references to safeguarding children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- References to 'safeguarding policies' have been replaced with 'child protection policies' to fit with statutory guidance. There is also a reference to the need for staff behaviour policies.
- New reference to including the risks of peer on peer abuse in the child protection policy
- Reference to the new requirement for all staff and leaders to receive regular updates on safeguarding at least annually
- Clarification that designated members of staff for safeguarding need to have safeguarding training every two years and their knowledge and skills should be refreshed at least annually.
- Reference to the new requirement that there should be a designated member of staff for safeguarding available at all times that the school/college/setting is open for staff to discuss concerns
- Reference to ensuring that teachers understand the mandatory duty to report known cases of female genital mutilation
- Reference to the new requirement for schools and settings to have appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place to protect learners from harmful online material
- Clarification that judgements about safeguarding should not be made solely on the evidence presented, but that inspectors should probe further and use additional evidence
- Clarification that the lead inspector should run an internet check for safeguarding issues related to the provider as part of pre-inspection planning
- Minor changes to the wording of sentences to be used in inspection reports about safeguarding incidents
- References to boards of trustees and academy sponsors throughout
- References to the requirement to check that teachers are not prohibited from teaching and that managers of independent schools are not prohibited from management. Annex 2 explains that providers should do this using the Teacher Services System
- New reference to the factual note published by the Department for Education about the scope of regulated activity
- Reference to the strengthened requirement for checks on individuals who have lived or worked outside the UK
- New reference to the need for enhanced DBS checks on governors
- Additional requirement for section 128 prohibition checks to be recorded on the single central record
- Clarification that any checks carried out on volunteers should be recorded on the single central record

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