

Further changes to KCSIE 2026

The latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026 was published on 1st September 2026 and came into effect immediately.

The final version has a number of changes from the July 2026 'for information'.

Four of these introduce racism and faith-based prejudice as an explicit safeguarding category appearing in Part One, in the definition of child-on-child abuse, and as a whole-school culture expectation.

The remaining two changes tighten the definition of sexual abuse (to bring it in line with Working Together); and tightens the safer recruitment of volunteers working in EYFS settings.

These new paragraphs also mean that the paragraph numbering has altered throughout.

- **Prejudice-based harm (paragraph 17):** new duty for all staff to recognise racism, faith-based prejudice, and other discrimination as harm in its own right
- **Sexual abuse definition (paragraph 28):** widened from "forcing or enticing" to "forcing, causing or inciting", with new lines confirming children are more likely to know their abuser than not, and that under-13s can never legally consent to sexual activity
- **Faith-targeted abuse (paragraph 32):** new paragraph stating that racism and faith-targeted abuse can significantly affect a child's welfare, wellbeing and sense of safety
- **Child-on-child abuse (paragraph 37):** discriminatory behaviour, including racism and faith-targeted abuse, added to the definition of child-on-child abuse
- **Whole-school culture (paragraph 119):** new expectation that schools promote an inclusive, anti-discriminatory culture as part of their safeguarding responsibilities
- **EYFS volunteers (paragraph 386):** "Where schools are also subject to the EYFS framework, volunteers must not be permitted to begin working within the settings covered by the EYFS framework until the school or maintained nursery school has received the volunteer's enhanced DBS certificate including barred list information. "

The final version of Keeping Children Safe in Education for 2026 can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>