

Safeguarding Bulletin - Updated model safeguarding policy September 2026

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Safeguarding bulletin



Hello

from Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team

Safeguarding
in Schools

To all Southwark schools/settings,

We are pleased to share our [updated model safeguarding policy](#) for use by Southwark schools and settings in the 2026/7 academic year, which is [available on our website](#) where you can also find other helpful practice guidance. When using this model policy, please remember to add your own school's/setting's details and make any edits that may be required so that the policy is applicable to your setting.

You'll see the policy is significantly different to that of previous years due to substantial changes in the latest [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026](#) which reflect wider legislative changes including the new [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026](#) and [Crime & Policing Act 2026](#). This means we are not sharing a 'track changes' version of the document, showing amendments from the previous version, as there are revisions throughout. We encourage schools/settings to take time to review the document in full and consider what further actions you may need to take including updating other policies or preparing training ready for the new academic year, to ensure responsibilities are understood and processes are in place for effective and compliant safeguarding.

Please also be aware that some social care systems and safeguarding processes are likely to undergo further changes over the next year including as a result of the Government-led [Families First Partnership Programme](#) reforms, and the [proposed changes](#) to the [Online Safety Act 2023](#). These are likely to affect policies and processes, which means your school/setting safeguarding policy may need to be reviewed. We will continue to share any

relevant updates and guidance around this as the changes progress, usually through our weekly safeguarding bulletin ([school staff can join the mailing list here](#)).

Please also note the *KCSIE 2026, Regulated Activity, DBS Eligibility and Safer Recruitment – Briefing Note* produced by Southwark Schools Human Resources. It provides a summary of:

- Key safeguarding changes within KCSIE 2026
- Changes to regulated activity introduced through the Crime and Policing Act 2026
- DBS eligibility requirements
- The removal of the volunteer supervision exemption
- Implications for schools, volunteers and recruitment practice
- Actions schools should take before the start of term

A key message for schools to be aware of in terms of staffing and recruitment change within KCSIE 2026 is the removal of the longstanding supervision exemption from regulated activity. Schools should review all volunteer arrangements by the start of the academic year.

Southwark Schools Health and Safety Team will also be sharing a model allergy policy for maintained schools, in line with the new [allergy safety in schools statutory guidance](#), ahead of the new term.

If you have any questions about this model policy, or the implementation of safeguarding policies and processes in your school more generally, please do not hesitate to contact Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team:

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You can also find out more about [the work of our Safeguarding in Schools Team](#) and [safeguarding training opportunities available to your school](#) on our website.

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If you have any colleagues who would like to receive this weekly safeguarding bulletin, they can [sign up to Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools bulletin](#).

Find out more about support from [Southwark's Safeguarding in Schools Team](#).

For safeguarding resources and training information visit [Safeguarding in Education](#).