



KEY UPDATES IN KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION (KCSIE) 2025

The KCSIE 2025 statutory guidance leaves no doubt that nurseries sit firmly within its scope. It's a living document that nurseries must follow every day, not just for audits. Ignoring updates could put children at risk and leave your setting exposed - the following is a roadmap to the key changes:

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- **Broader Safeguarding:** Definitions are broader, urging early help for vulnerable children, including those with SEND, young carers, or mental health worries.
- **Child-on-Child Abuse:** This now covers everything from playground pushes to online harassment; staff must avoid "just banter".
- **Online Safety:** All staff need online safety training.
- **The DSL's Role:** The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has extended oversight of digital safeguarding, records, and early help coordination.
- **Record Keeping:** Records must be detailed, confidential, and regularly reviewed to spot patterns early.
- **Allegations:** Low-level concerns go into a separate log; serious allegations go straight to LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer).



KCSIE 2025: OLD VS. NEW EXPECTATIONS:

- **Training Frequency:** Previously ad-hoc, now at least annually with interim updates.
- **Filtering Responsibility:** Now a shared duty between the DSL and leadership, not just the IT provider.
- **Parental Engagement:** Now requires regular updates and signposting to trusted resources, not just an optional leaflet.

PRIMARY CHANGES TO ACTION:

- **Seeing Bigger Picture:** A "child-centred and coordinated approach" is required. Practitioners hold pieces of a safeguarding jigsaw and must come together to see the full picture.
- **Zero Brushing-Off:** Even young children can be involved in physical harm, sexual harassment, and cyberbullying; staff must respond with the same seriousness as adult-on-child concerns.
- **Early Signs Matter:** Emotional shifts can be safeguarding signals. Practitioners are best placed to notice these trends and must swap vague comments for concrete observations that a DSL can act on.
- **Strengthened the DSL:** The DSL is now part traffic controller, part detective. They need protected hours to perform their role.

AUDIT CHECKLIST: ARE YOU KCSIE 2025 READY?

- All staff have read Part One or Annex A and signed to confirm.
- The online safety policy reflects the devices used by children and staff.
- The DSL has protected time and up-to-date training certificates.
- A low-level concern log exists, and staff know where it is kept.
- Parents get regular safeguarding updates.

