



In December 2020, '**Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018**' was updated. We've put together this summary, which outlines key changes and details a Government consultation currently being undertaken.

**07**  
**The Government are consulting on:**

- \*revisions to 'Keeping children safe in education', the statutory guidance that sets out what schools and colleges should do and the legal duties with which they must comply to keep children safe
- \*revisions to the advice on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges

To ensure your views are included click on this link: [Keeping Children Safe in Education: Proposed Revisions 2021](#)  
**Deadline: 4 March 2021**

**Update to terminology within the document:**

Contextual safeguarding was renamed in the guidance as "**assessment of risk outside the home**" (p.25) and teenage relationship abuse has been added as an area of risk, however the primary content of this section has not changed.

**02**  
**Update to terminology within the document:**

The impact of domestic abuse, including controlling or coercive behaviour, has been integrated throughout the revised guidance. Both domestic violence and controlling and coercive control have been added to the definitions within (p.110 & 111). The changes state (p.14) that practitioners need to develop their knowledge and skills in addressing the impact that domestic violence has upon children, both as witnesses and by being forced to collude in this.

**WT18 Update Dec '20**

**06** **Addition:**

The Homelessness duty has been added (p.23) in relation to local authorities' duties to intervene at an earlier stage in homelessness and duty to refer.

**Safeguarding Partnerships:**

In the section on Relevant Agencies, it now says;

**"The safeguarding partners should set out in their published arrangements which organisations and agencies they will be working with to safeguard and promote the welfare of children,"** previously it said **"must set out"**.

**05**  
**Mental Health:**

The importance of mental health concerns for children has been emphasised throughout the revised document. Mental health has been added to physical health (p.7 & p.14) and the significance of mental health concerns about a child have been linked to abuse, neglect or exploitation. While aimed at school staff, the advice to refer concerns about a child's mental health to children's services while not making mental health diagnoses (p.18), is relevant to other roles. Under the referral process **"Where a child or young person is admitted to a mental health facility, practitioners should consider whether a referral to local authority children's social care is necessary"** has been added.

**04**  
**Addition:**

**Early Help** (p.14) **"has a parent/carer in custody"** has been added to the list of children in need of potential early help.

**People in Positions of Trust** (p.60) **"behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children"** has been added. This was added earlier last year to Keeping Children Safe in Education to capture concerns around transferable risk; for example, where a person who works with children is involved in a domestic abuse incident at home and this may have implications for their suitability to work with children.

**Addition: 03**

Information has been refined in response to the **Data Protection Act 2018** and General Data Protection Regulation (**GDPR**). This includes guidance about appropriate information sharing of safeguarding and child protection concerns. This includes the explicit statement that data protection legislation does not prevent the sharing of information to keep a child safe and that consent is not required when sharing information for safeguarding and protecting the welfare of a child (p.19). In making decisions about appropriate information sharing, the guidance recommends using **GDPR lawful bases** for sharing, i.e. **legal obligation** (the exercise of official authority) or **public task** (a task performed in the public interest). Further information about this is available in the new appendices (Appendix B) and includes a useful myth busting guide to information sharing (p.21).