

This matter is being dealt with by:

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 Reference: SIE Annual Audit 2021/2022  
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**For the attention of: The Head Teacher/Principal and Chair of Governors of all schools and academies in Nottinghamshire, including independent schools, alternative providers, and colleges.**

**Assurance of statutory safeguarding arrangements in Nottinghamshire schools, colleges, independent and alternative education providers.**

This letter accompanies a copy of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children in Education Self-Audit Toolkit for 2021/2022 and guidance notes to support its completion. This self-auditing toolkit reflects the statutory guidance from the Department of Education issued under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015 and the Education and Training (Welfare of Children Act 2021).

The Department for Education published 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021' statutory guidance on 6 July 2021 which comes into effect on the 1 September 2021. Schools, academies, colleges, and alternative education providers in England **must** have regard to this guidance when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, this includes everyone under the age of 18.

The self-audit tool, and its accompanying guidance have been revised to reflect the changes and strengthening of safeguarding requirements in:

- HM Working Together to Safeguard Children, published 4 July 2018  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/942454/Working\\_together\\_to\\_safeguard\\_children\\_inter\\_agency\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_inter_agency_guidance.pdf)
- DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 (KCSiE) in force from 1 September 2021  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

**Note:** The DfE has removed the interim Covid-19 guidance and has added a link to departmental advice sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges, which is now part of the statutory guidance and informs how schools and colleges should 'respond to all reports and concerns of child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment see link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges>

The substantive changes from KCSiE 2020 are within KCSiE 2021 at Annex G (pages 161 to 166) of the guidance.

Head teachers, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Governors should ensure

**everybody** working in a school or college understands their safeguarding responsibilities and read the guidance. Governing bodies and proprietors, working with their senior leadership teams and especially their designated safeguarding lead, should ensure that those staff who do not work directly with children read either Part one or Annex A (a condensed version of Part one), based on their assessment of which guidance will be most effective for their staff and support them in understanding and discharging their role and responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Government has further strengthened what governing bodies and proprietors, headteacher, designated safeguarding leads should be doing with in KCSiE 2021 to ensure 'safeguarding arrangements' remain effective, current and are regularly monitored and reviewed.

On 1 January 2019, and in line with statutory guidance, the Local Safeguarding Children Board was replaced with a new 'Partnership'. Under the arrangements all schools (including independent schools, academies, and free schools), colleges and other educational providers in the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership area have been identified as 'Relevant Agencies'. All Relevant Agencies are required to act in accordance with the safeguarding arrangements, further details of which can be found at:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp/about-the-partnership>.

This request to complete the SiE Self-Audit Tool is therefore made under the auspices of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and by Nottinghamshire County Council as part of their statutory responsibility for overseeing safeguarding children and young people wherever they are educated.

Nottinghamshire's maintained schools' Governing Bodies will be expected to use the self-audit tool to support the quality assurance and reporting of 'safeguarding arrangements' at the Autumn Term 2021 meeting of the full Governing body, where the form should be signed off and reported within the minutes of the meeting.

This SiE Self-Audit toolkit reflects the key revisions contained within KCSiE 2021 at the time of publication. It will be for Governing bodies, Head teachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) to ensure they remain abreast of any further government or local safeguarding changes made to statutory guidance during the 2021 to 2022 academic year, and which may arise during the year from the KCSiE Consultation Government Response, published 6 July 2021.

**The SiE Annual Self-Audit toolkit for 2021/2022 is in three parts:**

1. Letter of introduction.
2. Guidance for completion of the SiE Annual Self-Audit Form 2021-2022
3. The SiE Annual Self- Audit Form, with evidence related questions and combined with the Training Information Form

**The SiE Self-Audit Tool** – this tool is designed to break down the requirements in KCSiE 2021 and help schools undertake their own quality assurance of safeguarding.

**The SiE Self- Audit Form combined with the Training Section of the Form** – continues to differentiate what is a 'statutory requirement' and must be in place, and what is considered 'best practice' and should be in place. The self-audit form should be completed by all schools, academies, colleges and independent schools and providers and returned in electronic format only to: [cheryl.stollery@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:cheryl.stollery@nottsc.gov.uk) **no later than 20 December 2021.**

All completed forms will be safely and securely retained by the Local Authority and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) to evidence compliance with statutory duties in relation to keeping children safe and working together to safeguard children.

We will ensure you are kept informed of any further changes which may impact on statutory safeguarding requirements which you will need to take into account.

Should you have any queries please contact Cheryl Stollery, Safeguarding Children in Education Officer on Tel: 0115 804 1047.

Yours sincerely,



Cheryl Stollery Safeguarding Children in Education Officer



Marion Clay Service Director, Education, Learning & Skills



Colin Pettigrew Corporate Director Children Families and Cultural Services