

This matter is being dealt with by:

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 Reference: SIE Annual Audit 2023/2024
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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 2023/2024 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 2023' statutory guidance on 6th of June 2023 which comes into effect on the 1 September 2023. 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 (updated December 2020).
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 2023 (KCSiE) in force from 1 September 2022
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Note: The DfE has revised KCSiE 2023 to:

- strengthen and clarify the roles and responsibilities of **all** staff but particularly those with Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) responsibilities, Head teachers and Governing bodies/Trusts.
- included additional information for specific areas of safeguarding including 'vulnerable' groups.
- added clarity and links to other statutory guidance, resources, and laws by providing electronic links.

The substantive changes from KCSiE 2022 are within KCSiE 2023 at Annex F (pages 177 to 178) of the guidance and have been included within the 28 Questions in the annual audit form

for 2023-2024. The substantive changes can be identified as 'New' in green type font. In addition, I have included a separate document titled 'NCC NSCP KCSiE 2023 Key changes and points of revision which schools should consider within their individual Child Protection Policy', to help inform you of the revisions made by the DfE, and points for considered action in your school, college, or alternative education learning environment.

It reinforces and clarifies the responsibilities for Head teachers, Designated Safeguarding Leads, Governing bodies, and Trusts, to ensure **everybody** working in a school or college understands their safeguarding responsibilities, has access to reading the prescribed parts within KCSiE 2023 and supported to understand the requirements placed and including the local safeguarding procedures put in place by Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP).

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 from the 1 September 2023 to support gathering the evidence to quality assure the 'safeguarding arrangements' and report them at the full Governing body meeting of the Autumn term 2023, where the form should be signed off and reported within the minutes of the meeting.

This NCC & NSCP SiE Self-Audit toolkit reflects the key revisions contained within KCSiE 2023 at the time of publication. It will be for Governing bodies/Trusts, 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 2023 to 2024 academic year.

NOTE: At the time of publishing this SiE Self-Audit Toolkit, the Government has published a Consultation for HM Guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children indicating intentions are to review and publish a revised version of the guidance, possible before the end of December 2023. This will be after the deadline for Nottinghamshire schools to submit the completed SiE annual audit form. We will keep you informed of any revisions that will require considered actions to you individual 'safeguarding arrangements.'

The SiE Annual Self-Audit toolkit for 2023/2024 is in four parts:

1. Letter of introduction.
2. Guidance for completion of the SiE Annual Self-Audit Form 2023-2024
3. The SiE Annual Self- Audit Form, with evidence related questions and combined with the Training Information Form.
4. 'NCC NSCP KCSiE 2023 Key changes and points of revision which schools should consider within their individual Child Protection Policy'

The SiE Self-Audit Tool – this tool is designed to break down the requirements in KCSiE 2023 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. Please use the ‘*evidence*’ sections to provide supporting information.

Please Note: Only one completed form should be returned which includes signatures to evidence ‘safeguarding compliance’ has been confirmed by the Head teacher and governing body/trust, which can be in pdf format, however, please also check legibility of the form content before returning.

The self-audit form should be completed by **all** schools, academies, colleges and independent schools and education providers and returned in electronic format only to: cheryl.stollery@nottscc.gov.uk **no later than 20th of December 2023.**

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 consider.

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



Peter McConnochie Service Director, Education, Learning & Skills



Colin Pettigrew Corporate Director Children Families and Cultural Services