

This matter is being dealt with by:
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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 and independent providers.

This letter accompanies a copy of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children in Education Self-Audit Tool for 2020/2021 and guidance notes to support its completion. This tool 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 Department for Education 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020' statutory guidance published on 17/06/2020 which comes into effect on the 1st September 2020. Schools, academies and colleges in England must have regard to this guidance when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

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 4th July 2018
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>
- DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 (KCSiE) in force from 1st September 2020
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892394/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2020.pdf

Note: The substantive changes from KCSiE 2019 are within KCSiE 2020 at Annex H pages 115 to 118 of the attached guidance. It also includes a new paragraph on Covid-19 and the pandemic and supplementary guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

On 1st 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 2020 meeting of the full Governing body, where the form should be signed off and reported within the minutes of the meeting.

The SiE Annual Self-Audit toolkit for 2020/2021 is in three parts:

1. Letter of introduction.
2. Guidance for completion of the SiE Annual Self-Audit Form 2020-2021
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 2020 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, colleges, academies and independent schools and providers and returned in electronic format to: cheryl.stollery@nottscc.gov.uk no later than **20th December 2020**.

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.

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