

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

KCSIE 2026 IS HERE

Are you ready?

HERE ARE THE TEN BIGGEST CHANGES YOUR WHOLE SCHOOL NEEDS TO KNOW.

The new statutory guidance has been published and comes into force on 1 September 2026. The changes make consistency and collaboration in safeguarding the expectation for all.

1

EVERYONE READS PART ONE. IN FULL.

The condensed version (old Annex A) has gone. Every member of staff, whether teaching, admin, catering, or site staff, must read and understand the whole of Part One.



2

MOBILE PHONE FREE BY DEFAULT.

For the first time, it is in statutory guidance: schools should be phone-free environments, with anything else by exception only, across lessons, breaks, and lunch.



3

ONLINE HARM IS REAL-WORLD HARM.

Deepfakes, AI-generated imagery, and sextortion are named for the first time. The word 'sexting' has gone. The guidance now talks about 'making or sharing nudes and semi-nudes', and every incident needs a safeguarding response, consensual or not.



4

WEAPONS: REPORT STRAIGHT AWAY.

Any concern that a child is carrying, has used, or intends to use a weapon goes to the DSL immediately. The DSL assesses the risk and puts a safety plan in place.

5

MISOGYNY AND ITS POTENTIAL TO ESCALATE.

The guidance recognises the escalatory nature of misogyny. Banter and 'boys being boys' can be the start of a behaviour pattern that ends in sexual violence. Challenging it early is everyone's job.

6

MENTAL HEALTH, EXPANDED.

There are new warning signs for all staff, and clear crisis routes: call 999 or go to A&E if a child is in danger.

7

GENDER-QUESTIONING CHILDREN.

Statutory for the first time. Schools do not initiate social transition. Decisions are made case by case and documented, with parents usually involved, and there are firm rules on single-sex spaces and sport.

8

VOLUNTEERS NEED CHECKING.

The Crime and Policing Act 2026 removes the supervision exemption. Volunteers who teach, train, or supervise children on more than three days in a 30-day period, or overnight, are now in regulated activity, however closely they are supervised.

9

FAMILY HELP: ONE JOINED-UP OFFER.

'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026' brings targeted early help and support for children in need into a single coordinated offer. All staff should know how children can benefit and how to refer.

10

RECORDS THAT PROTECT EVERYBODY.

A good record now has a clear standard: a summary, the action taken, the decisions made, the reasons for them, and the outcome. A note that says 'spoke to child, fine now' fails the test.

ALSO ON THE RADAR

- Operation Encompass is statutory: police notify schools of domestic abuse incidents before the next school day.
- Filtering and monitoring must be reviewed at least annually, with records kept.
- Cyber security is now a safeguarding issue.
- There is a new section on children with medical conditions.
- Trainee teachers are named in allegations procedures.
- Child protection files transfer within five days, with a conversation between DSLs as good practice.

Meet Our Expert

Laura Page is the founder of Schools Supported, which provides specialist consultancy and training for special educational needs and safeguarding. Laura is an experienced trainer, facilitator and speaker with a passion for child-centred provision and a practical understanding of the operational aspects of school leadership.



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