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Welcome to the start of the 2024/25 Academic Year.

My name is Angela George, Compliance Manager at Step Teachers, and I'd like to take you through the latest changes to the DfE's statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) which was published on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.

Below is a short overview to help you navigate the latest changes:

## Definition of Safeguarding

The definition of 'safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children' now aligns with the updates in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. The new definition now includes the additional points of:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge.
- Protecting children from maltreatment, inside or outside of the home, including online.

## Early Help

Early help has been broadened to include a wider range of concerns. This now includes:

- Frequently missing/goes missing from education, home or care.
- Has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from school, colleges and in alternative provision or a pupil referral unit.
- Has a parent or carer in custody or is affected by parental offending.

## Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

Where applicable, 'abuse and neglect' has been changed throughout the document to 'abuse, neglect and exploitation'.

The definition of 'abuse' has been expanded to highlight that witnessing the ill treatment of others, such as domestic abuse, is harmful to children.

## Children Absent from Education

In outlining the signs that children may be at risk of harm, the guidance updates 'deliberately missing education' to read 'unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education'.

## Data Protection

The updated guidance recommends that education professionals read the DfE Data Protection guidance for schools 2024. This guidance is aimed at school staff, governors and trustees and sets out how to; comply with data protection law; develop data policies; understand what staff and pupil data to keep; and prevent personal data breaches.

**Alternative Provision**

The updated guidance clarifies that when a school places a pupil with an alternative provision provider, the school continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of that pupil.

**Holding and Sharing Information**

The updated guidance highlights that, as well as keeping records of concerns, discussions and decisions, designated safeguarding leads should keep records of the rationale for any decisions made.

**Individuals who have lived or worked outside of the UK**

The reference to the 'UK Centre for Professional Qualifications' has been removed as they no longer provide an advisory service on behalf of the UK Government regarding regulated professionals and recognition of professional qualifications.

All staff working directly with children must read at least part 1 of KCSIE 2024. If you have not already done so, [please click this link to read and sign to say that you have done so in order for us to update your file.](#)