



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State

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BY EMAIL

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Dear Headteacher


Today the Department for Education (DfE) has published updated safeguarding guidance for all schools. 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' outlines the processes which all schools, in the maintained, non-maintained or independent sector, must follow to safeguard their pupils. It replaces 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education 2006/7'.

The guidance contains, for the first time, a simple 8 page section – which is also provided separately as a pdf – to be read, as a minimum, by all school and college staff. This section will inform those working in schools and colleges about types of abuse and neglect, and where to find further information about the signs that a child may be being abused. It will tell them how to refer a child about whom they have concerns to the appropriate agency and it will direct them to further, detailed information on specific safeguarding matters including female genital mutilation, child sexual exploitation, cyberbullying, mental health, and radicalisation. The guidance reiterates that staff members working with children should always think "it could happen here" where safeguarding is concerned.

The new statutory guidance also explains how the Disclosure Barring Service checks and barred list checks apply in schools or colleges. At least one member of a school recruitment panel must have undertaken safer recruitment training and the designated safeguarding lead must undergo training every two years. The guidance stresses that all schools and colleges, in any sector, should co-operate with local authorities and in particular work with social services where the safety or welfare of a child is of concern.

I hope you find the guidance clear and helpful.

Yours faithfully

Yours,
Mr


MICHAEL GOVE