Table of updates to the Schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Template 2025-2026

Available at: [Early Years and Schools Safeguarding Policies and Guidance | Shropshire Learning Gateway](https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/early-years-and-schools-safeguarding-policies-and-guidance/)

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| **Sections & Updates made** | **Rationale/explanation/further information** |
| **Whole document:**All references to statutory guidance have had dates removed  with hyperlinks taking to the relevant guidance page (rather than the link to the current guidance) | To future proof the document |
| **Whole document:** Addition of "harm" where ever abuse, neglect, exploitation appears. | A safeguarding response is needed where there is a risk of harm to child (whether by virtue or abuse, neglect, exploitation or indeed some other form of harm that may/may not indicate abuse; such as suicide/self harm/serious violence). See also the updates to children requiring Mental health support section. |
| **Whole document:** Hyperlinks have been checked and updated where there has been change (e.g. West Midlands Safeguarding Procedures pages) |  |
| **Legislation, Standards and Guidance:** Removal of Shropshire Operation Encompass Protocol | This protocol is currently under review due to upcoming changes to the local process. We will send further communication to you once in place. In the meantime, please direct:     * School related Operation Encompass enquiries to: [sanctuaryscheme@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:sanctuaryscheme@shropshire.gov.uk)      * Early Years related Operation Encompass enquiries to Charlotte Percival ([Charlotte.Percival@shropshire.gov.uk)](mailto:Charlotte.Percival@shropshire.gov.uk) |
| **Roles and Responsibilities: Headteacher:** Addition of responsibility to ensure policies relating to site safety and health and safety are in place with explanation as to what this should include. | Due to   * Part 3 EYFS requirements * Local Requirement to notify the Local Authority of notifiable incidents (see [Education Update - 17th June 2025)](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSHROPSHIRE/bulletins/3e45f3c) * Ensuring of implementation of requirements to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack (see [Education Update - 24th June 2025)](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSHROPSHIRE/bulletins/3e59a7d) |
| **Professional Development and Support:**   * Changes to frequency of training across all groups * Additions to staff CPD requirements * Update to Prevent Training for DSLs and Governors | Due to   * Part 3 and Annex C EYFS requirements. We have therefore aligned frequency for all education providers. Those of you who do not have early years settings can decide whether to change. * Prevent Training changes: Frequency recommended by DfE Regional Co-Ordinator. Type of training should be In line with [*The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation) *and Governor/DSL specific packages (including specifics for EYFS and Independents) at*[*Regional Prevent education co-ordinators - GOV.UK*](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regional-prevent-education-coordinators#virtual-training-sessions) |
| **Record Keeping and Information Security: Transfer of child protection files and other safeguarding information:**Added [Shropshire Transition in Education Guidance (safeguarding children at educational transition points) | Shropshire Learning Gateway](https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/early-years-and-schools-safeguarding-policies-and-guidance/shropshire-transition-in-education-guidance-safeguarding-children-at-educational-transition-points/) | The Shropshire Transition in Education Guidance was developed in response to the following learning from both national and local learning reviews (see the link for more context). It was agreed as guidance by Shropshire Education Partnership Board in June 2025 and is in effect for this academic year. It will be reviewed annually. For any queries/feedback, please contact Emma Harding ([Emma.Harding-Safeguarding@shropshire.gov.uk)](mailto:Emma.Harding-Safeguarding@shropshire.gov.uk) |
| **Working in Partnership:**   * **Parents:**Addition of meetings with parents prior to starting EYFS setting * **Other agencies/partnerships:**Removal of Operation Encompass Protocol link and wording amendment | * Due to Part 3 EYFS requirements * The Operation Encompass protocols are currently under review due to upcoming changes to the local process. We will send further communication to you once in place. In the meantime, please direct:      * School related Operation Encompass enquiries to: [sanctuaryscheme@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:sanctuaryscheme@shropshire.gov.uk)      * Early Years related OPeration Encompass enquiries to Charlotte Percival ([Charlotte.Percival@shropshire.gov.uk)](mailto:Charlotte.Percival@shropshire.gov.uk) |
| **Teaching our children how to keep safe:**Sentence addition to reflect school need to be compliant with [Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education) | Note that the RSHE stat guidance has been updated but the new guidance does not come into effect until 1st September 2026 (which gives you time to plan) |
| **Online Safety**   * Further Online Safety Policy Template links added * Updates to guidance for consideration relating to online safety approach in school and what should be included in your policy | To reflect KCSiE 2025 online safety additions. Please also be aware that we are keeping [Online Safety | Shropshire Learning Gateway.](https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/early-years-and-schools-safeguarding-policies-and-guidance/online-safety/)This includes new subpages on:   * [Online Safety and Generative AI | Shropshire Learning Gateway](https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/early-years-and-schools-safeguarding-policies-and-guidance/online-safety/online-safety-and-generative-ai/) * [Preventing cybercrime by children (Cyberchoices) | Shropshire Learning Gateway](https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/early-years-and-schools-safeguarding-policies-and-guidance/online-safety/preventing-cybercrime-by-children-cyberchoices/) |
| **Children potentially at greater risk of harm: Children who attend Alternative Provision:**   * Children who attend Alternative Provision Section updated * Appendix A Alternative Provision Quality Assurance Checklist Removed (and as such Appendix lettering re-formatted)         **Children who are absent from or are not in receipt of full-time education:**Update to required number of emergency contacts for Early Years settings and insertion of Early Years Attendance Policy        **Children requiring mental health support:**Added need to ensure safeguarding response is needed where there is a risk of harm to child as a result of mental health needs. | **Alternative Provision:**  Both KCSiE 2025:Part 2 and [Alternative provision - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-provision)have been updated (Alternative Provision in February 2025); so you need to ensure that existing processes are compliant.  As part of the ongoing SEND and Inclusion Strategy, updated tools to support quality assurance of AP will be shared via Education Updates. The previous Quality Assurance template has been removed from this policy as it is no longer compliant.    **Children who are absent from or are not in receipt of full-time education:**To reflect EYFS Part 3 and development and publication of Early Years Attendance Policy Template available at [Early Years and Schools Safeguarding Policies and Guidance | Shropshire Learning Gateway (shropshirelg.net)](https://www.shropshirelg.net/safeguarding-and-child-protection/early-years-and-schools-safeguarding-policies-and-guidance/)      **Children requiring mental health support:**This is good practice that many schools already carry out (see addition of harm throughout whole document above) and aligns with practice approach now outlined in updated  [Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education - GOV.UK.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education) |
| **Designated Safeguarding Lead Response:**Addition of how ICT filtering and monitoring systems can flag safeguarding concerns. | Reflects filtering and monitoring standards. |
| **Appendices:**Appendix A Alternative Provision Quality Assurance Checklist removed and all other Appendices re-lettered | To reflect updates to Alternative Provision section (see above) |