

KCSIE 2025 Update

Tower Hamlets Education Safeguarding
Service



- No significant change
- The small number of updates is interesting given “call for evidence” prior to issuing this latest version.
- It is unclear whether the DfE is still reflecting on the responses it received, and whether more substantive changes could therefore be in the pipeline



Key Changes



Online Safety

Under “Online Safety”, the definition of “content” has been updated. This now specifically includes that “**misinformation, disinformation (including fake news) and conspiracy theories**” should be viewed as safeguarding harms. Previously, only “fake news” was included as a standalone item. These additions widen the potential harms schools should be alert to.

- Schools should update their policies to reflect this new wording (including Safeguarding Policy and any associated online safety policies) and reflect on how staff are educated on these issues and students equipped to spot and protect themselves from them.



Filtering and Monitoring



KCSIE 2025 includes a link to the DfE guidance Generative AI: product safety expectations (Published Jan 2025).

DfE expects that Generative AI products must:

- effectively and reliably prevent access to harmful and inappropriate content by users;
- maintain robust activity logs, either by the Generative AI product itself or additional technology;
- be secured against malicious use or expose to harm;
- prioritise transparency and child safety in its design and be operated with accountability; and
- respect data protection and intellectual property laws.

There is now a link to the DfE's "[plan technology for your school](#)" service to assess whether they match the requirements and to receive personalised recommendations on how to meet them.



Alternative provision

The updated guidance provides additional information to clarify and reflect existing alternative provision guidance, highlighting how schools should:

- gain written confirmation from the alternative provider that appropriate staff safeguarding checks have been carried out, as well as written information about any arrangements that may put the child at risk
- have records of the address of the alternative provider and any subcontracted provision or satellite sites the child may attend
- regularly review any alternative provision placements to make sure the placement continues to be safe and meets the child's needs. If safeguarding concerns occur, the placement should be immediately reviewed and ended if necessary.



Children who are absent from education

The updated guidance makes clear that the DfE's Working together to improve school attendance is now statutory guidance.

Virtual School Heads

Extension of Virtual School Head's role includes a non-statutory responsibility to promote the educational achievement of all children in kinship care.

Additional resources on harmful sexual behaviour

Reference is made in Annex B to the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse's new resources

A link is provided to [The Lucy Faithfull Foundation's](#) "Shore Space", a confidential chat service to assist young people who are concerned about their own or someone else's sexual thoughts or behaviour.

