



## Safeguarding in Schools: Best Practice

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#### 1. Safeguarding: A Definition

1. Ofsted adopts the definition of safeguarding used in the Children Act 2004 and in the Department for Education and Skills (now DfE) guidance document *Working together to safeguard children*, which focuses on safeguarding and promoting children's and learners' welfare.<sup>1</sup> This can be summarised as:
  - protecting children and learners from maltreatment
  - preventing impairment of children's and learners' health or development
  - ensuring that children and learners are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
  - undertaking that role so as to enable those children and learners to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.
2. Two key inspection issues follow from this definition:
  - the effectiveness of settings and services in taking reasonable steps to ensure that children and learners are safe

<sup>1</sup> *Working together to safeguard children*, Department for Education and Skills, 2006; [www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/WT2006](http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/WT2006).



- the effectiveness of settings and services in helping to ensure that children and learners feel safe.
3. Governing bodies of maintained schools and local authorities must comply with the Education Act 2002 (section 175) and have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The DfES (now DfE) guidance *Safeguarding children and safer recruitment in education*, makes it clear that schools must provide a safe environment and take action to identify and protect any children or young people who are at risk of significant harm.<sup>2</sup> Schools are required to prevent unsuitable people from working with children and young people; to promote safe practice and challenge unsafe practice; to ensure that staff receive the necessary training for their roles; and to work in partnership with other agencies providing services for children and young people. Local authorities have a duty to provide model policies and procedures on all aspects of safeguarding and to ensure that schools are aware of, and comply with, their responsibilities. As part of this, they offer advice and training for schools' staff and governors.
4. In evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in schools, inspectors focus on a broad range of issues including:
- the impact of safeguarding arrangements on outcomes for pupils, including staying safe, being healthy, making a positive contribution, enjoying and achieving, and developing skills for economic well-being
  - how well pupils are taught to keep themselves safe
  - how well the school protects pupils from bullying, racist abuse, harassment or discrimination, and promotes good behaviour
  - the effectiveness of health and safety policies and procedures, including conducting necessary risk assessments as well as regular checks on equipment and premises
  - the effectiveness of arrangements to provide a safe environment and secure school site
  - how well the school meets the needs of pupils with medical conditions
  - how appropriately child welfare and child protection concerns are identified and responded to by the school
  - how effectively the school works with key agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
  - how well the school prioritises safeguarding, and monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of its policies and practices
  - the extent to which the school ensures that adults working with children are appropriately recruited and vetted, and receive appropriate training, guidance, support and supervision to undertake the effective safeguarding of pupils.
5. The effectiveness of safeguarding is taken into account when judging other aspects of a school's work including care, guidance and support for pupils; the effectiveness of the governing body; the effectiveness of partnerships in promoting learning and well-being; pupils' behaviour; and the extent to which pupils feel safe.

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<sup>2</sup> *Safeguarding children and safer recruitment in education*, Department for Education and Skills, 2006; [www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DFES-04217-2006](http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DFES-04217-2006).



**2. Department for Education: Keeping Children Safe in Education - Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges**

Please open Hyperlink to access the above Guidance.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/350747/Keeping\\_children\\_safe\\_in\\_education.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/350747/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf)

**3. Ofsted report on Safeguarding Best Practice in Schools**

Please open Hyperlink to access the above report.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/s/Safeguarding%20in%20schools.doc>