

September 2025

**FAO: Governing Bodies, Proprietors, Headteachers and Principals**

**Re: Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)**

The Department for Education has published an updated 2025 version of the statutory guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding children, '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)'. This replaces and revises the 2024 guidance.

The Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) advice regarding training requirements for Prescribed Whole School and Designated Safeguarding Lead, any Deputies and Safeguarding and Child Protection Training Requirements, is provided below.

The guidance states in Annex C, the Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead:

The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This training should be updated at least every two years.

The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should also undertake Prevent awareness training. Training should provide designated safeguarding leads with a good understanding of their own role, how to identify, understand and respond to specific needs that can increase the vulnerability of children, as well as specific harms that can put children at risk, and the processes, procedures and responsibilities of other agencies, particularly local authority children's social care, so they:

- understand the assessment process for providing early help and statutory intervention, including local criteria for action and local authority children's social care referral arrangements.
- have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- understand the importance of the role the designated safeguarding lead has in providing information and support to local authority children social care in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. • understand the lasting impact that adversity and trauma can have, including on children's behaviour, mental health, and wellbeing, and what is needed in responding to this in promoting educational outcomes.
- are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), those with relevant health conditions and young carers.
- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school and college, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations, and practitioners.
- understand and support the school or college with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and are able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
- are able to understand the unique risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online at school or college.

- can recognise the additional risks that children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from bullying, grooming and radicalisation and are confident they have the capability to support children with SEND to stay safe online.
- obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses, and
- encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the school or college may put in place to protect them.

In addition to the formal training set out above, their knowledge and skills should be refreshed (this might be via e-bulletins, meeting other designated safeguarding leads, or simply taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at regular intervals, as required, and at least annually, to allow them to understand and keep up with any developments relevant to their role.

To meet the requirement of DSLs to update their knowledge and skills and keep up with any developments relevant to their role the Whole School Safeguarding and Child Protection training continues to be made available to schools **every 18 months**.

The schools safeguarding and child protection policy template has been revised to reflect the updated 2025 guidance. In line with the statutory guidance schools should individualise the school safeguarding policy template to reflect their local circumstances.

The Whole School Safeguarding and Child Protection training, provided by School Workforce Development, is regularly updated with new messages from safeguarding reviews, government guidance and research papers, local Salford issues and SSCP priorities. *The training is well evaluated by school staff. The SSCP therefore continues to approve this training for use in schools and considers it to be the best available option for the schools within Salford.* If you have any questions regarding the Whole School Safeguarding and Child Protection training please contact [Elaine.Boulger@salford.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Boulger@salford.gov.uk) School Workforce Development Officer.

For any other queries contact the SSCP [sscp@salford.gov.uk](mailto:sscp@salford.gov.uk)

For policies, procedures and resources for schools and other educational settings, please visit [Education | Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) or contact Salford's Safeguarding in Schools Lead [Amanda.jtaylor@salford.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.jtaylor@salford.gov.uk)

Signed by Cathy Starbuck, Director of Education and Inclusion



## **Prescribed Whole School and Designated Safeguarding Lead, Safeguarding and Child Protection Training Requirements**

The SSCP, School Workforce Development and Safeguarding in Schools have agreed a set of prescribed training requirements in Salford for school staff, as follows,

**All School Staff** – All school staff who do not have designated lead responsibility for child protection are required to undertake SSCP approved training to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young people every eighteen months. This is currently available through the Whole School Safeguarding and Child Protection training, provided by School Workforce Development.

As safeguarding is 'everybody's' responsibility, all staff in the school should know who to contact if they are concerned about a child or young person so it is important to ensure all new staff receive appropriate induction and regularly updated training so that they clearly understand their roles and responsibilities.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) and Deputies** – As a minimum the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) and any Deputies should attend the SSCP Working Together to Safeguard Children course and the Multi-Agency Level 3 Guest Speaker course and any recommended supplementary courses for Designated Safeguarding Lead(s), preferably prior to, or as soon as possible, after beginning the role of a Designated or Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead formal training (Annex C, the Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead) should then be refreshed after a period of 2 years with the Safeguarding Updates and Developments (Refresher) course. Depending upon the circumstances of the school, Ofsted or learning from Safeguarding Practice Reviews may require that the Designated Safeguarding Leads attend additional training.

All SSCP training courses are for multi-agency partners and therefore places are equally distributed between partner agencies. There may be times when DSLs/DDSLs new to role are unable to secure a timely place on the Working Together to Safeguard Children course. In these circumstances schools/services may wish the DSLs/DDSLs to undertake training via an external provider. Some examples of external DSL training providers are listed below,

SSCP courses can be accessed and booked at [SSCP Training Programme Calendar](#)

[LGfL Training Centre - London Grid for Learning](#) – scroll through the courses to find the DSL Training.

[Designated safeguarding lead \(DSL\) training | NSPCC Learning](#)

[Designated Safeguarding Lead \(Level 3\) | Online Training \(highspeedtraining.co.uk\)](#)

**Please note, where a DSL/DDSL does attend a course with an external provider it is recommended they still attend the SSCP Multi Agency Guest Speaker Level 3 Course as this course will provide DSLs with the local context and procedures to carry out their role.**

DSLs are individually responsible for receiving and securely storing their certificates of attendance, in line with the school's protocols, when using external providers.

Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) are also required to keep their knowledge and skills up to date on an annual basis. The Safeguarding in Schools Officer delivers termly DSL Forums, safeguarding bulletins, seminars/briefings/training which provide updates that contribute to the education Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies refreshing and updating their skills and knowledge.

The Whole School Safeguarding and Child Protection Service SLA also delivers termly, SSCP approved, seminars/briefings/training which provide suitable updates for Designated Safeguarding Leads to refresh and update their skills and knowledge. In some instances, schools must have purchased the Whole School Safeguarding and Child Protection Training Service SLA to be eligible to attend these events.

After attending the recommended SSCP Course's (or equivalent), Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) should also consider accessing other safeguarding courses as relevant to the circumstances of the school, in line with [SSCP Priorities](#), regional and national priorities and learning from Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

Paragraph 79 of KCSiE 2025 states, "governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that **all** governors and trustees receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. This training should equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in schools and colleges are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole school approach to safeguarding. **Their training should be updated regularly.**" Governor Safeguarding Induction training and Role of the Safeguarding Governor training is available through Governor Services and Whole School Safeguarding.

Certificates of attendance for the Whole School, the Designated Safeguarding Lead and governor training should be retained and securely stored in the school as Ofsted may wish to verify the evidence that the requirements of the above listed paragraphs and Annex's from Keeping Children Safe in Education have been met.

For more information on the SSCP, latest news, policies and procedures please visit:  
<https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/professionals/>