

The four important changes to the 2019 Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance

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The 2019 version of **Keeping Children Safe in Education** is still in draft form, but it is highly likely it will come into force as currently drafted. Here are the four important changes you need to be aware of, and a brief summary of what you need to do about them.

1. **Upskirting** – upskirting is now a criminal offence and we know schools have had numerous incidences over the last 12 months or so. Paragraph 27 now includes upskirting as a type of peer-on-peer abuse and references it in Annex A as well.
2. **Serious violence** – two new paragraphs have been added in Part One – 28 and 29. They focus on children being pulled into criminal networks and gangs and the requirement for staff to look out for the indicators.
3. **S128 checks for governors** – a bit more clarity has been provided here. A new sentence has been added to the existing advice about checks on maintained school governors that makes it clear that Section 128 checks must be carried out on governors. If a prospective candidate or an existing governor is on the list, they cannot be a school governor.
4. **Associate members** – paragraph 174 confirms that you are not required to carry out enhanced DBS checks on associate members of a maintained school governing body.

The 2019 amends to the guidance are more tweaks than a wholesale review, so getting up to speed and acting on the changes shouldn't be a big ask. Here's what to do:

1. **Policy** – as part of your usual Child Protection policy review, please make the necessary changes. The upskirting and serious violence changes will certainly deserve a mention.
2. **Update staff** – include the new elements in your next updates and training sessions, which may well be your September inset day. Make sure you can evidence the outcomes of that update - not just the inputs.
3. **Online training** – if you currently use an online training provider make sure the modules and topics are updated and new questions are included to reflect the changes.

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