



1 | PARENTS

What to ask, what to expect, and where to raise a concern

1 Know the route

Find the school child protection policy and designated safeguarding lead (DSL). Ask how to report a concern when the DSL is unavailable.

2 Expect a child-specific response

Ask what information was considered, what support is planned and when it will be reviewed. Schools should involve parents appropriately while protecting children and confidential information.

3 Single-sex spaces remain single-sex

KCSIE says schools **must not** allow pupils into toilets, changing rooms, or boarding or residential accommodation designated for the opposite biological sex, **with no exceptions**. If a child needs another arrangement, an individual facility may be considered without compromising anyone's privacy, safety or dignity.

4 Ask about provision and information

If your child attends alternative provision, the placing school remains responsible for safeguarding. Ask how it monitors attendance and welfare. Relevant information may also be shared with safeguarding partners where appropriate.

Sport and social transition

Where single-sex sport is necessary for safety, KCSIE says there should be no exceptions. Social transition is described as an active intervention requiring a very careful, child-specific approach and priority engagement with parents, subject to a safeguarding exception.

Protect and Teach position

We oppose schools facilitating social transition. This is our organisational recommendation, not a blanket legal ban in KCSIE. Every child must be heard, supported and protected from bullying.



2 | SCHOOLS & GOVERNORS

Turn statutory guidance into arrangements that can be tested

1 Read the full legal framework

Check KCSIE alongside Education Act 2002 safeguarding duties, the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty where applicable, the School Premises (England) Regulations 2012, and the independent school standards. Governors should test implementation, not simply approve a policy.

2 Audit single-sex provision

KCSIE says schools must not allow access to toilets, changing rooms or boarding and residential accommodation designated for the opposite biological sex, with no exceptions. Where single-sex sport is needed for safety, no exceptions apply. Review facilities, supervision, policies and individual alternatives.

3 Oversight of provision

For alternative provision, obtain written safeguarding-check assurances and monitor attendance, welfare and concerns. Define responsibilities with supply, trainee and contracted staff.

4 Review online safety

The responsible senior leader, with DSL and IT support, should review filtering and monitoring effectiveness at least once each academic year and record the checks.

From 30 September 2026

Prepare for the Information Sharing Duty. Determine which organisations and practitioners are in scope; train staff on relevance, recipient, child welfare, limits and record-keeping.

Protect and Teach recommendation

Do not facilitate social transition in school. Keep single-sex safeguards intact, involve parents as KCSIE expects, and examine wellbeing and wider needs. Review teaching and external materials against political impartiality duties under the Education Act 1996.

Sources: DfE KCSIE 2026 and Protect and Teach Policy Analysis Paper No. 2.



3 | TEACHERS & STAFF

The everyday changes to know and act on

1

Read Part One in full

All staff, including those who do not work directly with children, should read Part One. Know the school policy, DSL route and what to do if the DSL is unavailable.

2

Notice, record, act

Listen to the child. Record what was observed or said separately from interpretation. Recognise exploitation, violence, mental health concerns and barriers affecting children with SEND, medical conditions or caring roles.

3

Respond to harm between children

Treat sexual harassment, sexual violence, harmful sexual behaviour and nude or semi-nude image incidents as safeguarding matters. Follow the reporting route promptly.

4

Apply boundaries in daily practice

Respect single-sex facilities and safety-based sport rules. If a pupil requests a change in how the school treats them, listen without making assumptions or promises. Involve the DSL and follow the school's child-specific process.

Other essential changes

Know routes for allegations and low-level concerns about adults, including supply staff, trainees, volunteers and contractors. From 30 September, staff in scope of the Information Sharing Duty should follow the school procedure for relevant information.

Protect and Teach position

We oppose schools facilitating social transition. Whatever the school's response, protect the child from bullying, respect other children's rights and apply the legal rules on single-sex spaces.