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Detailed Report on Changes in "Keeping Children Safe in Education" from 2023 to 2024

This year's updates reflect the latest guidance from 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023'.

This detailed report covers changes across key sections, including safeguarding definitions, early help, abuse and neglect indicators, and much more.

Part One: Safeguarding Information for All Staff

1. Definition of ‘Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children’

- 2023: Defined safeguarding as protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment, ensuring safe and effective care, and taking action for the best outcomes.
- 2024: Expanded to include providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge, including online contexts.
- Reference: Paragraph 3.

2. Early Help

- 2023: Mentioned as support provided as soon as a problem emerges.
- 2024: Clarified to emphasize early help from the foundation years through to teenage years, reflecting updated ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023’ guidance.
- Reference: Paragraph 18.

3. Abuse and Neglect

- 2023: Focused on identifying various forms of abuse and neglect.
- 2024: Heading amended to include ‘exploitation’. Added emphasis on seeing, hearing, or experiencing the effects of domestic violence.
- Reference: Paragraph 19.

4. Indicators of Abuse and Neglect

- 2023: Listed indicators without specific examples.
- 2024: Included text specifying ‘including where they see, hear, or experience its effects’ when referring to domestic violence.
- Reference: Paragraph 24.

5. Safeguarding Issues

- 2023: Included ‘deliberately missing education’.
- 2024: Changed to ‘unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education’.
- Reference: Paragraph 29.

Part Two: The Management of Safeguarding

6. Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR

- 2024: Added a new paragraph to ensure compliance with DPA/UKGDPR requirements, emphasizing the importance of lawful bases for processing and sharing personal data, including special category data, in the context of safeguarding.
- Reference: Paragraph 92.

7. Alternative Provision

- 2023: General guidance on school responsibilities.
- 2024: Clarified that the school remains responsible for pupils they place in alternative provision, ensuring that these placements are suitable and that the safeguarding and welfare of these pupils are monitored.
- Reference: Paragraph 171.

8. Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEN)

- 2023: General reference to children with SEN.
- 2024: Added links to NSPCC advice on protecting children with SEN and deaf/disabled children. This includes specific strategies for safeguarding these children and understanding the additional vulnerabilities they may face.
- Reference: Paragraph 204.

9. Children who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Questioning their Gender

- 2023: General guidance on supporting these children.
- 2024: Added a disclaimer and further clarification to comply with guidance on gender-questioning children. This includes:
 - Ensuring that staff understand the specific challenges and needs of these children.
 - Creating a supportive environment where these children feel safe to express their identity.
 - Ensuring policies reflect inclusivity and respect for all children's identities.
 - Providing training for staff on issues related to gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Reference: Paragraphs 205-209.

Part Five: Child-on-Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

10. Early Help

- 2024: Updated text to reflect the ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023’ guidance, emphasizing the importance of early intervention and support to prevent escalation and provide timely assistance to victims and those at risk.
- Reference: Paragraph 497.

Annex B: Further Information

11. Children and the Court System

- 2024: Included two separate age-appropriate guides for schools to support children in the court system. These guides help schools understand how to support children who are witnesses or involved in family court proceedings, ensuring they receive appropriate care and support during these stressful times.

12. Preventing Radicalisation

- 2024: Added a disclaimer and clarified schools’ duties in relation to Prevent. This includes:
 - Understanding the signs of radicalisation.
 - Knowing how to refer concerns to appropriate channels.
 - Creating a safe environment where students can discuss and understand issues related to radicalisation.

Annex C: Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

13. Holding and Sharing Information

- 2024: Added further guidance on the rationale for making decisions regarding the holding and sharing of information. This includes:
 - Ensuring that information sharing is in the best interest of the child.
 - Maintaining transparency with families about what information is being shared and with whom, whenever it is safe to do so.
 - Understanding the legal basis for sharing information without consent when necessary to safeguard the child.



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