

# EYFS safeguarding & welfare guidance update and checklist

The essential guide for Early Years providers and practitioners about the forthcoming safeguarding and welfare changes in the new statutory framework and how to prepare for it now





## Information for early years providers and practitioners

Safeguarding Network supports Designated Safeguarding Leads in education settings with the huge range of requirements on their role. As guidance is published we provide up to date advice and support to implement the changes. Members also have access to staff training materials to keep staff up to date with safeguarding topics all year around.

The Department for Education has published the updated Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework for 2021. The government states the changes to the EYFS will improve outcomes for all children, but particularly the language and literacy outcomes for disadvantaged children and reduce teacher workload. The new statutory framework will apply from 1 September 2021. Until then, the current framework applies.

This document focuses on the safeguarding and welfare requirements changes, rather than the wider changes to learning and development.

To help you understand the changes to the safeguarding and welfare requirements we have highlighted in yellow the relevant sections in the [EYFS March 2021 Framework here.](#)

The changes to the safeguarding requirements are in the main reminders. We've also highlighted changes to welfare requirements and suggested actions for both. By completing the additional sections this acts as a record for your management team that the safeguarding & welfare requirements have been put into place.

What's changed?	Suggested actions	Date & Name completing	Action taken/evidence
<p>Local Safeguarding Partners (LSP) replaces Local Safeguarding Children Board. There is no change to practice.</p>	<p>Make sure your policies and procedures reflect LSP. It is a good time to check what your local procedures are as all local authorities are different.</p>		
<p>There is a reminder about the importance of understanding how and when to share information to keep children safe.</p>	<p>Review your practice against the <u>Information sharing: advice for practitioners guidance</u>, published in 2018.</p>		
<p>The updated framework re-emphasises the focus on online safety.</p>	<p>Review your practice against the current online safety guidance, published in 2019 <u>Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations</u>.</p> <p>Ofsted '<u>Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years, education &amp; skills settings</u>', published 2018 states: "Staff, leaders and managers oversee the safe use of electronic and social media by staff and learners and take action immediately if they are concerned about bullying or risky behaviour."</p>		

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<p><b>Recruitment:</b> Providers have to undertake checks where anyone who <b>may</b> have contact with children is suitable (3.9).</p>	<p>Update your recruitment policy from 'are likely to' to 'may' have contact.</p> <p>Review any job roles where you do not undertake suitability checks and consider whether they may have contact with children.</p> <p>Record your rationale around each job role. Don't forget volunteers!</p>		
<p>Criminal record checks no longer required for people living on the premises, <b>if they have no access to children</b> (3.14).</p>	<p>Only relevant where you have people living on the premises. If so, review your policy and risk assessment accordingly.</p>		
<p>You can employ someone while waiting for a DBS if they are supervised.</p> <p>17 year olds must also have an enhanced criminal records check before being left unsupervised (3.30).</p>	<p>Update your recruitment policy.</p> <p>If you plan to do this undertake a risk assessment in respect of the individual and work they'll be involved in and have clear written actions signed by the supervisors and the member of staff you've taken on.</p>		

What's changed?	Suggested actions		Date & Name completing	Action taken/evidence
<p><b>Other welfare changes:</b> Equality Act 2010 requirements apply to everyone, but are now written into the framework to ensure the fair and equal treatment of staff.</p>	<p>Ensure your policies reference the Equality Act 2010. You'll find some great guidance to support you as an employer and as a service provider on the <a href="#">Equality &amp; Human Rights Commission website</a>.</p>			
<p>Children must be suitably supervised while eating.</p>	<p>Ensure your risk assessments and ratios are focused on mealtimes, especially the risk of choking (e.g. prevention, rapid response).</p>			
<p>Help children learn about the importance of good oral health.</p>	<p>This is based on NICE guidance in 2020. Review curriculum, procedures, ensure staff are trained and competency assessed.</p>			
<p>E-cigarettes and vaping not allowed.</p>	<p>Ensure this is clear in staff behaviour/code of conduct policies and appropriate signage is in place. Public Health England guidance can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>			

What's changed?	Suggested actions	Date & Name completing	Action taken/evidence
<p>Clarification that "Sleeping children must be frequently checked to ensure that they are safe. Being safe includes ensuring that cots/bedding are in good condition and suited to the age of the child, and that infants are placed down to sleep safely in line with <u>latest government safety guidance</u>."</p>	<p>Ensure your policies and practice are in line with the current guidance.</p>		
<p>First aid training must include some face-to-face element.</p>	<p>Ensure your first aid training includes face-to-face training.</p>		

Most of the changes in the new Framework apply to the learning and development requirements which are not covered here. You'll find more about the reforms and Development Matters on the [Foundation Years website](#).

# About Safeguarding Network

Designated Safeguarding Leads have more to do and often less time to do it in. We are concerned that there is an increasing requirement on schools to fill the void left by decreasing social care budgets, with little way of support particularly when something is not deemed to meet the social care thresholds. We help you by collecting the resources you need into one place with expert advice.

For £99+VAT a term your Early Years setting or school has full access to our integrated training package that aligns to your whole school or college safeguarding approach.

- all our 15-minute training packs
- safeguarding news and articles
- scenarios to run with your team
- heavily discounted online learning
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- initial safeguarding advice
- audit tools to check your work



Keep your finger on the pulse and get support when you need it.

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