



Sector updates

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May /June 2025

Sector updates

- Proposed changes to Ofsted inspection processes for education. Possibly introduced after autumn 2025 half term
- Some conversations around what is a secure grade
- Social care working group for revised inspection for social care- new format likely next year.



New format example

Our evaluation of this provider

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary
	Achievement ⌵	Leadership and governance ⌵	Attendance ⌵	
		Curriculum ⌵	Behaviour and attitudes ⌵	
		Developing teaching ⌵	Inclusion ⌵	
		Personal development and well-being ⌵		
		Sixth form ⌵		

Safeguarding evaluation

Safeguarding

Met

⌵ Show

New behaviour guidance for education.....

- Well worth being aware as some big changes in September.
- Useful to consider.



Behaviour- new guidance/schools

- Promote safer school environments by ensuring force is used only when necessary.
- Improve accountability through mandatory reporting of incidents.
- Encourage non-restrictive behaviour strategies to reduce reliance on force.
- Protect pupils with SEND by ensuring they receive tailored support.
- Consultation closed 29.4.25
- <https://consult.education.gov.uk/behaviour-unit/revised-use-of-reasonable-force>



Behaviour-continued

Statutory requirement to record and report use of force (effective September 2025)

- From September 2025, schools will be legally required to record and report incidents where reasonable force is used. This aims to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the use of force, helping schools to monitor and review practices;
- Schools will need clear policies and processes in place to comply with these new requirements.

Behaviour- continued

Guidance on other restrictive interventions (non-statutory)

- The new guidance expands beyond reasonable force to include other restrictive interventions, such as:
 - Physical restraint (holding, blocking, guiding);
 - Seclusion or isolation (removing a child from an area or restricting their movement);
 - Mechanical restraints (e.g., arm splints in certain medical cases);
 - Chemical restraint (use of medication to manage behaviour).
- Schools are advised to use positive behaviour strategies to reduce reliance on restrictive practices.

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Behaviour cont'd

Strengthened guidance on when reasonable force is appropriate

- Clarification that reasonable force should only be used as a last resort when absolutely necessary to:
 - prevent harm to a child or others;
 - stop a criminal offence or property damage;
 - maintain discipline in exceptional circumstances.
- An emphasis on proportionality – **force used must be reasonable and justifiable**

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Behaviour cont'd

Specific provisions for pupils with SEND and vulnerable learners

- The guidance recognises that pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are more likely to be subjected to restrictive interventions;
- Schools must provide reasonable adjustments and consider de-escalation techniques before resorting to force;
- Encourages individual behaviour plans for pupils at risk of needing restrictive interventions.



Behaviour cont'd-

Responsibilities of Schools, Governing Bodies, and Proprietors

- School leaders and governors must ensure staff are trained and competent in behaviour management and use of force;
- Staff must be aware of legal protections and understand the emotional and psychological impact of using force on pupils;
- Governing bodies should monitor trends in the use of force and ensure schools comply with recording and reporting requirements.



Good to know - KCSIE

- No major changes
- No consultation at this stage.
- Likely to be more changes next year when all the current legislation has gone through



Crime and Policing Bill

Part 5 child sexual abuse & other sexual offending

- grooming a statutory aggravating factor when sentencing an adult for a child sex offence
- statutory duty for certain individuals to report child sexual abuse.
- measures to tackle the creation and possession of child sexual abuse material
- child sex offender disclosure scheme, 'Sarah's law', on a statutory footing
- new offences relating to the taking of intimate images and voyeurism.



Crime and Policing Bill

Part 4 - Safeguarding vulnerable people

- new offences of child criminal exploitation and 'cuckooing', often associated with county lines drug dealing
- new offence of spiking
- New offence of encouraging or assisting serious self-harm.



Sector updates

Part 14 - Youth radicalisation

- announced as the initial response to the 'counter-extremism sprint'
- 'youth diversion orders', a counter-terrorism risk management tool available to people under 21. The police would be able to apply to the courts for an order, which could require or prohibit certain conduct, if necessary and proportionate to mitigate terrorist risk
- a number of recommendations of the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, Jonathan Hall KC



Sector links-

- <https://terrorismlegislationreviewer.independent.gov.uk/classification-of-extreme-violence-used-at-southport-in-july-2024/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-prevent-learning-reviews>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-and-policing-bill-2025-factsheets/crime-and-policing-bill-overarching-factsheet>

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Inspection **themes**

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What are you finding?

Inspections

- Contextual safeguarding
- Reg 40 - not being timely
- Record keeping- lacking detail
- Poor impact / matching assessments
- Supervision lacking reflection
- Not escalating issues re. education

