

It's been a busy few months since our last newsletter with the DfE issuing a consultation about the changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education for September 2026 and also issuing an update to Working Together to Safeguard Children. Benedict's Law has been passed. The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill is due for imminent Royal Assent, the Crime and Policing Bill is working its way through parliament and Martyn's law begins to come into force from September 2026!

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026

A consultation version has been published for 2026 and although it is likely to undergo changes, it indicates that there will be a lot of updates. The consultation document can be found [here](#).

If you have time, do respond to the consultation by 20th April, 2026 [here](#).

As soon as we have the final draft (this was at the end of June last year) **we will prepare and publish a free update PowerPoint video for you all, on our learning platform. Please do look out for emails from us so that you can access this before the end of the summer term.**

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026

The update came out without fanfare in March and can be found [here](#).

You and your staff should know what it contains.

The NSPCC have published a useful summary of the key changes which can be found [here](#).

We have also produced a summary of the whole document to save you time. It is uploaded onto our website:

<https://www.debbieinnessafeguarding.co.uk/resources>

- Make sure that your policy references the 2026 guidance (not the previous 2023 one).
- Make sure that your policy refers to an accurate definition of safeguarding and the difference between that and child protection – this can be found in the introduction to the 2026 guidance.
- Make sure that you and your staff can identify, understand and challenge racism and discrimination, especially with regards to safeguarding. The updated guidance mentions throughout how the building of inclusive and anti-discriminatory cultures is essential. **We offer training and culture development based on lived experience in this area - please do contact us for a discussion about how you can review and improve in this area.**
- Make sure that you have considered domestic abuse and the impact on children – not just within your policy but in everyone's daily practice. **We offer training and culture development based on lived experience in this area - please do contact us if you are interested.**
- Review your offer of Early Help...make sure you capture what you do and its impact, not what you refer to the Local Authority. This is referred to as Family Help.
- Ensure that you are responding to all children, including those who may be causing harm to others, with a safeguarding response. This may require you to review your approach to behaviour. Our associate [For the Child](#) can help here if needed.
- Think about how you review learning from safeguarding incidents. **We have a framework for this - please do contact us if you would find it helpful.**
- Think about the provision of high-quality supervision to ensure that there is a clear focus on children's welfare. **We offer this service or can refer onto other high-quality supervisors - please do contact us to discuss this.**

There are likely to be further updates to this guidance once the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill comes into effect as a result of education becoming a formal statutory partner. We will update when this happens.

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

We introduced this in our newsletter of January 2025. Here is a quick summary. **Look out for our free update PowerPoint video when this becomes law for more information.**

- Education becomes a formal statutory safeguarding partner
- Mandatory children not in school (CNIS) register to track children not in school
- Stronger information-sharing duties
- Multi-agency child protection teams including education
- Tighter regulation of independent and unregistered settings
- Enhanced Ofsted powers to enforce safeguarding standards
- Stronger teacher misconduct and barring processes

These changes collectively aim to ensure no child falls through the gaps, and that schools are fully integrated into the national safeguarding system.

Benedict's Law 2026

Benedict's Law, 2026, mandates strict, legally binding allergy safety policies in schools. Following the death of five-year-old Benedict Blythe, this requires:

- Whole-school allergy policies setting out how schools manage allergies and respond to emergencies
- Staff training so teachers and school staff can recognise and respond to anaphylaxis
- Access to emergency adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) where needed
- Individual healthcare or allergy action plans for pupils with diagnosed allergies
- Improved communication and record-keeping around allergies and allergic reactions.

The government is due to publish guidance about the implementation of Benedict's law by July 2026. Again, we will let you know when we hear that this has been published.

More information can be found here:

<https://benedictblythe.com/benedicts-law/>

Martyn's Law 2025

This law aims to improve protective security and organisational preparedness against terrorist attacks and is named in honour of Martyn Hett, one of the 22 people killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena terrorist attack.

It requires that those responsible for certain premises and events to consider how they would respond to a terrorist attack and consider appropriate steps to reduce vulnerability to terrorist attacks and includes education as a standard tier organisation (irrespective of the number of people on site).

All settings within scope of the legislation will need to have in place, so far as is reasonably practicable, public protection procedures. This includes:

- Evacuation (to get people out of the premises)
- Invacuation (to move people to a safe place)
- Lockdown (to secure premises against attackers)
- Communication (to alert people on premises to the danger)

You also need to have a named responsible person.

You can find further information [here](#).

Our Learning and Development platform

To view courses visit: [Debbie Innes Training](#)

Designated Safeguarding Lead Course

This online course supports qualification of new designated safeguarding leads to train or can be used for experienced DSLs biennial update training.

Price: £75

Advanced Designated Safeguarding Lead Course

This course runs over a year and deepens everything you need to know about safeguarding children. The modular approach means that you can spend time improving and applying your new skills - more information is available for free on our platform [here](#)

Each module will start with a live online induction.

Price: £350 per module

Testimonials

"Debbie's a great communicator - knowledgeable, warm, empathetic."

"Very up to date and felt engaging with lots of scenarios based on real life"

"Debbie was able to bring relevance to all aspects covered"
"Debbie's delivery is very informative, calm & reassuring. We were able to ask questions and talk about real situations"

To Book email:

contact@debbieinnessafeguarding.co.uk

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