
Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2026)

The most recent edition of KCSIE¹ released in September 2026 by the DfE has highlighted a number of pertinent issues related to faith and belief. It is important that SARE members are aware of these.

The main **KCSIE 2026 changes linked to faith** are:

1. Faith-based prejudice recognised as a safeguarding concern

- Staff should recognise that children may experience **prejudice-based harm, including faith-based prejudice**, which can affect welfare, wellbeing, mental health and willingness to seek help. This should be considered within safeguarding practice where appropriate. (Page 11, para. 17)

2. Greater emphasis on faith-targeted abuse

- Staff should recognise that **racism, faith-targeted abuse and other forms of discriminatory behaviour** can significantly affect a child's welfare, wellbeing and sense of safety. (Page 15, para. 32)
- Child-on-child abuse now explicitly includes **faith-targeted abuse and other prejudice-based incidents**. (Pages 16 and 52)

3. Honour or faith-based abuse highlighted

- Children at risk of **honour or faith-based abuse**, including **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** and **Forced Marriage**, are listed as children who may need additional safeguarding support. (Page 12)
- A dedicated section on **Honour or faith-based abuse (HBA)** explains that all forms of HBA are abuse and should be managed through safeguarding procedures. (Pages 172-174)

4. Equality and safeguarding duties

- Schools and colleges must not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of **religion or belief** under the Equality Act 2010. (Page 31, para. 93)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty requires schools to consider the need to eliminate unlawful behaviour such as **faith-based prejudice**. (Page 32, para. 102)
- Schools should be aware that some pupils may be more vulnerable to **faith-based discrimination** and reflect this in safeguarding policies and procedures. (Page 33, para. 103)

5. Whole-school safeguarding culture

- Schools should promote an **inclusive, anti-discriminatory culture** where racism and other forms of discriminatory behaviour are recognised, challenged and addressed as safeguarding matters. (Page 35, para. 119)

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6aba40e0fceb6fb3a650127d/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2026.pdf

6. Preventative education

- Schools should create a culture of zero tolerance towards **racism and prejudice**, teaching pupils about equality, stereotyping and prejudice through safeguarding and RSHE. (Pages 44-45, para. 160)

7. New summary of changes

KCSIE 2026 specifically notes:

- Revised content on **racism and other prejudice-based behaviour** to align with *Working Together to Safeguard Children*. (Page 193)
- Addition of **racism** within whole-school safeguarding expectations. (Page 193)

Key new terminology

KCSIE 2026 explicitly introduces:

- **Faith-based prejudice** (Page 11).
- **Faith-targeted abuse** (Pages 15-16, 52).
- **Honour or faith-based abuse** (Pages 12, 172-174).

These are the most significant faith-related additions and strengthening points in KCSIE 2026.

Manjit Kaur,

NASACRE Executive, September 2026