

S175/157 Safeguarding self-assessment audit of statutory duties and associated responsibilities for schools in relation to ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ (KCSiE)

For the period 1 May 2021 – 30 April 2022

Completion and return deadline: 10 June 2022

Guidance for completing this year’s audit – please read before completing the audit using the link to a Microsoft Forms document.

The S175/157 safeguarding self-assessment audit for 2022 builds on emerging themes from last year’s shorter survey and the Local Authority (LA) would like to take the opportunity to thank school leaders for their positive engagement and support in providing responses for the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership (SSP)¹.

The period since March 2020 has been incredibly difficult, forcing everyone into a different way of working. However, safeguarding has remained paramount and has required us all to work in new ways to ensure our safeguarding arrangements are effective to ensure children and young people are protected from harm, abuse and maltreatment. In recognition of the sustained period of challenge over the last 25 months, we are asking schools and settings to complete a shorter survey again this year. The audit should not create new activity for schools, it is about reporting what the school is currently doing or planning to do in its work to keep children safe.

The SSP is keen to secure a 100% return by 10 June 2022. Please do not delay completing and submitting the audit because your governing body² might not be meeting during this period. The SSP monitors the response of all schools and the council’s education team has been asked to analyse responses at school level and report findings to the SSP board. Schools which are part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) are asked to complete an audit for each school within the MAT. We cannot accept a submission covering all schools within a MAT. We know many MATs have strong trust wide arrangements in place, but it is vitally important that we collect school level perspectives on the question in the survey

All schools³ are requested to complete this audit, including identifying gaps or areas for review or improvement. The intention of the audit is to provide information to the SSP, but we believe it can also be a helpful management tool for the school as it can be used:

- for your annual safeguarding report to governors, who should be involved in this process,

¹ Formerly the Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board- The independent body that holds all safeguarding partners (schools, the LA, Police and Health) to account regarding safeguarding practice

² When referring to governing body this includes registered providers, proprietors, and management committees.

³ References to ‘school’ throughout this document is intended to apply to maintained schools, academies, free schools, independent schools and further education colleges

- to ensure gaps are identified and plans put in place to help safeguard pupils,
- to demonstrate awareness and understanding of the Ofsted framework relating to safeguarding.

Information for governors:

Multi-Agency Partnerships (MAP) have statutory duties which include coordinating what is done by each person or body represented on the MAP Board for the purposes of promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children in the area and ensuring the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body for those purposes (this includes schools). Under Section 14b of the Children Act 2004, the MAP may request information from relevant people or bodies that will enable or assist the board to perform its functions and, in the case of schools, you are being asked to complete this self-assessment audit for that purpose.

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 introduced statutory safeguarding duties for schools, governing bodies and local authorities (LAs). Section 175 guidance requires governing bodies to carry out an annual review of the school's policies and procedures and to provide information to the LA about how the duties set out in the guidance have been discharged. Independent schools and academies are covered under Section 157 of the same Act. Completion of this audit fulfils this requirement for school governing bodies.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare requirements cover schools providing Early Years facilities for children.

This year we also wanted to share some links to guidance/resources which you might find helpful, and which directly relate to some of the questions in the audit.

<https://suffolkyouthjustice.co.uk/diversion/what-is-diversion>

[Information about our Trans Inclusion Schools Toolkit \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/information-about-our-trans-inclusion-schools-toolkit)

<https://view.paagetiger.com/RSHESchools/home/?ptit=30807729549F37CC7BD30>

<https://suffolkyouthjustice.co.uk/hsb>

[Suicide | Suffolk County Council](#)

[Suffolk Education Mental Health Lead Network | Suffolk County Council](#)

On behalf of the SSP we would like to thank you for completing the year's safeguarding audit, your continuing commitment to safeguarding children in Suffolk is greatly appreciated.