

Ofsted Safeguarding Inspection-Readiness Checklist

A quick self-check for schools and education settings against the safeguarding basics.

Under the Ofsted framework, safeguarding is judged simply met or not met. Use this as an honest look at whether the basics are watertight and evidenced. It is indicative, not a formal inspection, and every answer stays with you.

1 Single Central Record

- ☐ Is your single central record complete and current for everyone who works or volunteers at the setting?

Evidence: *the SCR, with all required checks recorded and dated, and any gaps closed.*

2 Trained DSL and Deputies

- ☐ Is a trained Designated Safeguarding Lead, with trained deputies, available whenever the setting is open?

Evidence: *DSL and deputy training certificates, a cover rota showing availability.*

3 Safer Recruitment

- ☐ Is safer recruitment followed for every appointment, with a trained recruiter on each panel?

Evidence: *recruitment files, references, identity, right-to-work and DBS checks.*

4 Every Member of Staff

- ☐ Can every member of staff identify a concern and knows exactly how to report it?

Evidence: *KCSIE Part One read and signed, induction records, staff knowledge checks.*

5 Filtering, Monitoring and Online Safety

- ☐ Are filtering and monitoring in place with clear roles, and is online safety taught and reinforced?

Evidence: *the filtering and monitoring standards and named roles, curriculum coverage, incident logs.*

6 Recording and Referrals

- ☐ Are concerns recorded clearly and referred to the right agency without delay?

Evidence: *concern records and chronologies, a referral log, early-help and LADO contact.*

7 Culture and Staff Confidence

- ☐ Is there an open, positive culture where concerns are raised early and always acted on?

Evidence: *a staff survey, a low-level concern log, examples of concerns followed through.*

8 Governance and Oversight

- ☐ Do governors and leaders provide effective safeguarding oversight, with policies current to KCSIE 2026?

Evidence: *governor minutes, an annual safeguarding review, a policy updated for KCSIE 2026.*

Your priority actions

Any answer that is not a confident yes is where to focus first. For an independent, confidential review and support to be inspection-ready, visit safeguardassured.com, or try the free Ofsted and KCSIE readiness check online.