

**Subject:**

**Safeguarding and Child Protection – A Guide for Schools - Update**

**Revised Circular Number: 2017/04**

**Date of Issue: 2 September 2019**

**Audience:**

- Principals and Boards of Governors of all grant-aided schools;
- Independent Schools;
- Education Authority;
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta;
- Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education;
- Governing Bodies Association;
- Statutory Pre-School Providers;
- Controlled Schools' Support Council
- EOTAS centres
- Middletown Centre for Autism

**Summary of Contents:**

This circular is to advise you of the publication of an update to the Department's guidance – "Safeguarding and Child Protection – A Guide for Schools".

**Enquiries:**

Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to:

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**Status of contents:**

Advice and Guidance

**Related Documents:**

The Department of Health document: 'Co-Operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland'

[www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/co-operating-safeguard-children-and-young-people-northern-ireland](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/co-operating-safeguard-children-and-young-people-northern-ireland)

**Superseded Documents:**

- Original Circular 2017/04
- Circular 1999/10

**DE Website:**

This Circular and guidance document are available to download from

[www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/safeguarding-and-child-protection-schools-guide-schools](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/safeguarding-and-child-protection-schools-guide-schools)

[www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/circular-201704-safeguarding-and-child-protection-schools-guide-schools](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/circular-201704-safeguarding-and-child-protection-schools-guide-schools)

## SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION – A GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS

1. This Circular is to advise schools, managing authorities and other educational partners, that the Department has published an update of the: 'Safeguarding and Child Protection – A Guide for Schools'. The guidance can be accessed now at [www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/safeguarding-and-child-protection-schools-guide-schools](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/safeguarding-and-child-protection-schools-guide-schools) and hardcopies will be delivered to schools and others at the start of the 2019/20 academic year.
2. This guidance supersedes both the original Circular 2017/04 'Safeguarding and Child Protection – A Guide for Schools' and Circular 1999/10 'Pastoral Care in Schools – Child Protection'.
3. The guide provides wide-ranging advice and guidance on many aspects of safeguarding and child protection. All Boards of Governors and Principals should consider the contents carefully and it will be of particular relevance to the Designated and Deputy Designated teachers for Child Protection.
4. Particular attention should be paid to the references in the guidance to the key role of the Education Authority's Child Protection Support Service (CPSS). Contact **should** be made with CPSS for advice and support as soon as concerns of a safeguarding and/or child protection nature arise.
5. Whilst the guidance has been drafted for schools, it is also useful for other settings including early years and youth and they will therefore wish to consider how to reflect the processes outlined within their settings.
6. Also enclosed is a link to the Education and Training Inspectorate's Safeguarding Proformas. These will provide a useful benchmark in reviewing the extent to which your setting complies with safeguarding requirements and indeed how it reflects best practice.  
<https://www.etini.gov.uk/articles/safeguarding>

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