



Children and young people

Legislation

23rd July 2026

SAFEGUARDING

Children Act 1989

The Children Act 1989, provides the legislative framework for child protection in England. Key principles established by the Act include:

- The paramount nature of the child's welfare
- The expectations and requirements around duties of care to children.

[Read the act here](#)



Children Act 2004

This strengthens the previous Act, encouraging partnerships between agencies and created more accountability, by:

- Placing a duty on local authorities to appoint children's services members who are ultimately accountable for the delivery of services.
- Placing a duty on local authorities and their partners to cooperate in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people.

[Read the act here](#)



Policy and guidance working together to safeguard children

The Department for Education (DfE) published the latest version of '[Working together to safeguard children](#)', the key statutory guidance for anyone working with children in England, in December 2003.

The guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to protect children. It highlights the importance of implementing a child-centred approach, while considering the needs of the whole family.

[Read the publication here](#)

