NATIONAL NURSERY TRAINING

EYFS 2026 Staff Briefing Pack

The changes to the EYFS statutory framework from 1 September 2026, in plain language for your team · October 2026 edition

How to use this pack: run through it at a staff meeting, ask each member of staff to initial the checklist on page 2 when they have read it, and keep it with your training records. It covers the revised EYFS statutory frameworks (one for group and school-based providers, one for childminders) that took effect on 1 September 2026.

The changes at a glance

1. Safer sleep is now written into the framework

Sleep requirements used to sit in separate guidance. They are now set out in the statutory framework itself: babies placed on their backs to sleep on a firm, flat, clear sleep surface, with regular checks on sleeping children and sleep information shared with parents.

What this means for you: know the setting's sleep procedure, follow it for every sleep, and record checks as the procedure requires. If you are unsure how often to check a sleeping baby, ask your manager today, not at nap time.

2. Allegations of "harm" must be reported, not just "serious harm"

Providers must now notify Ofsted (or the childminder agency) of allegations of **harm** committed by anyone living, working or looking after children on the premises. The old threshold of "serious harm" has gone.

What this means for you: the bar for speaking up is lower. Report any allegation or concern to your DSL straight away and let them judge the threshold. Never decide on your own that something is "not serious enough".

3. Volunteers now need enhanced DBS checks

Volunteers need an enhanced DBS check with children's barred list check, even when they are supervised. New employees cannot start work before their check has been received, and childminder assistants cannot begin until both the check and the letter of suitability are in.

What this means for you: no parent helper, student or volunteer works with the children until the office confirms their check is back. If someone offers to help out, point them to the manager first.

4. Banned dog breeds and childcare premises do not mix

Registered childcare cannot be provided from premises where a banned breed of dog is kept or present. This matters most for childminders and home-based provision, and for any setting that allows dogs on site.

What this means for you: if your setting involves home premises or visiting animals, the manager must confirm the position before children attend.

5. New screen use guidance

Providers must have regard to the DfE's new screen use guidance for early years settings. Screens are not banned: use should be purposeful, and it should not displace play, movement, conversation or time outdoors.

What this means for you: a screen is a tool you choose for a reason, not a background habit. Be ready to explain the purpose of any screen time in your room.

6. Staff suitability disclosure has changed

The information that staff must disclose about their own suitability has been updated. Your setting's disclosure form and policy should reflect the new wording.

What this means for you: if anything changes in your own circumstances that could affect your suitability to work with children, tell your manager without waiting to be asked.

7. Updated qualification requirements

The early years qualifications requirements and standards document has been updated alongside the framework, including clarification of the Level 2 English requirements. Managers should use the current document for qualification checks and ratio decisions.

What this means for you: if you are counted in ratio on the strength of a qualification, the manager will check it against the current document. Chase any outstanding certificates.

Sections 1 and 2 of the framework, covering learning and development and assessment, are unchanged for 2026. The changes above sit in the safeguarding and welfare requirements. Always check the full statutory framework on GOV.UK for the exact wording.

Manager's action checklist

- ☐ Safeguarding and welfare policies reviewed against the September 2026 frameworks
- ☐ Sleep procedure updated, including how sleeping children are checked and how sleep information is shared with parents
- ☐ All staff briefed on the new "harm" notification threshold and who notifies Ofsted
- ☐ DBS position confirmed for every volunteer; recruitment process updated so no new starter begins before their check is received
- ☐ Staff suitability disclosure form updated to the new requirements
- ☐ Screen use reviewed against the new DfE guidance; parents informed of your approach
- ☐ Dogs on premises position confirmed (home-based and visiting animals)
- ☐ Qualification checks and ratio decisions re-run against the current qualifications document
- ☐ Annual safeguarding and allergy training booked for every member of staff
- ☐ This briefing read and initialled by every member of staff, and filed with training records

Staff sign-off

I have read this briefing and understand what the EYFS 2026 changes mean for my role.

Name	Signature	Date

Free staff briefing from National Nursery Training · nationalnurserytraining.com · Online CPD for early years teams, including EYFS, safeguarding, safer eating and allergy safety courses. This briefing summarises the September 2026 EYFS changes in plain language; it is not a substitute for the statutory framework, which is available on GOV.UK.