

Appendix to Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
during Corona Virus COVID 19 outbreak March 2020

This guidance is for Primary Schools in the Trust · Ed Schools' Partnership and was written in light of the latest guidance on Safeguarding.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

The overarching principles of Safeguarding remain and current guidance [Keeping children safe in education \(KCSIE\)](#) is still the main document to follow. Schools that are open for children should continue to provide a safe environment, keep children safe and ensure staff and volunteers have been appropriately checked following 'Safer Recruitment' and DBS guidelines. Where volunteers are needed, DBS checks should be in place or an appropriate risk assessment carried out in consultation with Sarah Godden Executive Headteacher.

Role of the local authority

The Department for Education is working very closely with all local authorities to ensure that children of critical workers and vulnerable children can, where required, attend a school or college. The department will, via regional school commissioners, continue to support local authorities' crucial responsibilities in maintaining effective safeguarding and child protection services in this challenging time to ensure schools and colleges can access the support they need.

Our School Settings- Trust · Ed Schools' Partnership

The way our schools are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in our School or Trust has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- if anyone in our School or Trust has a safeguarding concern about a member of staff they should act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available whilst children are in our settings (if not on the premises by phone)
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

- where reasonably possible vulnerable children should continue to be protected at home

Our schools should, as far as is reasonably possible, take a whole institution approach to safeguarding. This will allow them to satisfy themselves that any new policies and processes in response to COVID-19 are not weakening their approach to safeguarding or undermining their child protection policy.

Our schools will continue to act on:

- any updated advice received from the local 3 safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups)
- any updated advice received from local authorities regarding children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need

Reporting Safeguarding Incidents

When schools are open to children there should be a DSL on site wherever possible. If this is not possible due to illness or another reason, then a DSL will be on call and available to respond.

If staff have concerns about a child they should refer to the normal Child Protection policy and report and log any concerns in the usual way. If it is impossible to report to a DSL then the member of staff should refer to social services in the usual way.

DSL at Alveley: Mr O'Malley, Miss Coleman and Mr Smith. They are working different rota shifts so one of them is always available as long as none of them contract COVID 19.

Should it be impossible for one of the Safeguarding leads to be on site, another senior member of staff should have access to the child protection folders and available numbers to call.

Vulnerable Children

It is important for school staff to work with and support children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children by email or phone.

Senior Leaders have taken responsibility for contacting vulnerable children's families once a week and ensuring they accessing school work, accessing Free School Meal vouchers if applicable and that their mental health seems good.

There may be other families who need contacting who do not fall in the 'vulnerable' category e.g. those children who were having additional support from an outside agency. Provision has been made to contact these families as well.

The Assistant Head Teacher is copied into all email correspondence with parents. Teachers and Senior Leaders are providing home learning packs and available to support on a daily basis during term time.

During the Easter holiday time Senior Leaders will only contact families who are a cause for concern at this time.

Abuse - Peer on Peer/Online

- Peer on peer abuse - given the very different circumstances schools are operating in a different way. If Peer on Peer abuse was reported this should still be reported as normal and victims would be supported by phone or email. The principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE should continue to inform any revised approach. Given the greater use of social media children in our settings could be more vulnerable to this type of online abuse.
- Ensure any Learning Platforms do not have areas where this is happening. Staff to monitor and be vigilant.

There is much guidance about online safety on our Schools' websites. Further advice and guidance is available at:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline/professionals-online-safety-helpline>

- **Childline** - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse

Attendance

Normal attendance registers will not be in use. Our schools are keeping a daily register of children who are attending our settings and filling in the online survey form on the DfE website. If the parents' of vulnerable children choose not to send their children to school then Senior Leaders are monitoring these families as much as they can.

New staff or volunteers

If due to illness or low staff levels our schools should have to rely on volunteers, they should be DBS checked and have a safeguarding induction from a member of SLT.

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its [guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking](#) to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

Mental Health

Support for pupils in the current circumstances can include existing provision in the school (although this may be delivered in different ways, for example over the phone) or from specialist staff or support services. You can read the guidance on [mental health and behaviour in schools](#). Where our schools still have Educational Psychology packages left or similar, it is useful to contact the Educational Psychologist who will be able to offer support for individual pupils or families.

This appendix will be added to our Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and will be further updated if new overriding guidance comes into place from the DFE or Local Authority.

This appendix will be added to the Policy part of the website.