



SAWLEY INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy Addendum COVID-19 (Coronavirus) April 2020



Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy Addendum - COVID-19 (Coronavirus) - April 2020

Context:

This addendum applies during the period of school closure due to COVID-19. This is interim safeguarding guidance, it is under continuous review and will be updated as necessary. It sets out changes to our normal child protection policy in light of the Department for Education's guidance [Coronavirus: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#), and should be read in conjunction with that policy.

Safeguarding all children

Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time potentially puts all children at greater risk.

Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or affect on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on concerns immediately. In particular, children are likely to be spending more time online (see online safety section below). Unless covered here, our normal child protection policy continues to apply.

Vulnerable children

The Department for Education's (DfE's) definition of 'vulnerable children' includes those who have a social worker, including children:

- with a child protection plan
- assessed as being in need
- looked after by the local authority
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

Core Safeguarding Principles:

KCSIE is statutory safeguarding guidance that we will continue to have regard to as part of our legislative duty.

It remains essential that schools continue to be safe places for children.

The way we 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:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in school has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy will always be available
- 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



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Reporting Concerns:

All staff and volunteers must continue to act on any concerns they have about a child immediately. It is still vitally important to do this. Any member of staff who has a concern about a child should contact a DSL immediately face-to-face in school or via telephone. Staff have agreed policy access to My Concern at home.

The school will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. Senior Leaders have setup online conferencing tools and will continue to participate in meetings for vulnerable pupils.

All staff should share concerns with the DSL about pupils they are concerned about who do not meet the 'vulnerable' definition throughout this period of closure who are not physically attending the school.

If staff become aware of any peer on peer abuse, they should report this to the DSL who will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE.

Should a safeguarding concern arise against the Headteacher, please contact Wendy Crowder on: enquiries@sawley-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk who will provide with a contact number for the Chair of Governors – Diane Dakin.

DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) arrangements

A trained DSL or deputy DSL will be either on site or contactable by telephone whilst children are present in school – all staff have contact numbers for the DSL/Deputy DSL.

One Senior Leader will always be on site who will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding in contact with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and, as required, liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school. We will ensure that DSLs, senior leaders and deputies, know who the most vulnerable children in our school are.

- Senior Leaders: Marie Harral, Becky Morley, Katie Clampin and Rebekah Ades

It is acknowledged that DSL training is very unlikely to take place during this period (although the option of online training can be explored). For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

- DSL: Marie Harral
- Deputy DSL: Becky Morley
- Link DSL: Alison Burton (Sawley Junior School)
- Link DSL: Luise Taylor & Heather Stead (Sawley Junior School)



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Attendance

Schools do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

Schools and social workers should be agreeing with families whether children in need should be attending education provision – and the school should then follow up on any child that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

Schools should also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their children and the children subsequently do not attend. To support the above, schools should take the opportunity when communicating with parents and carers to confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available. In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, the school should notify their social worker.

The department has introduced a daily online attendance form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. This allows for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allows schools to provide accurate, up-to-date data to the department on the number of children taking up places.

Contact plans

We have contact plans for children with a social worker and children who we have safeguarding concerns about, for circumstances where:

- They won't be attending school (for example where the school, parent/carer and social worker, if relevant, have decided together that this wouldn't be in the child's best interests); or
- They would usually attend but have to self-isolate
- These plans set out:
 - How often the school will make contact
 - Which staff member(s) will make contact
 - How they will make contact

We have completed individual risk assessments and have agreed these plans with children's social care where relevant. These will be reviewed monthly by the DSLs.

If we can't make contact, we will contact children's social care or the police as appropriate.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

We continue to recognise the importance of robust safer recruitment procedures, so that adults and volunteers who work in our school are safe to work with children. We will continue to follow our safer recruitment procedures, and part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.



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We have organised existing staff on a rota basis to maintain social distancing and allow for self-isolation as required. We are continually reviewing staffing plans to meet the need of staff and pupils as safely as possible.

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. In urgent cases, when validating proof of identity documents to apply for a DBS check, we will initially accept verification of scanned documents via online video link, rather than being in physical possession of the original documents. This approach is in line with revised guidance from the DBS. New staff must still present the original documents when they first attend work at our school.

We keep a record of which staff are working on site or off site each day, and can guarantee that appropriate checks have been carried out for them. We will not use any volunteers or unpaid staff during this period of closure. We will continue to keep our single central record up to date.

Schools should continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's [Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral](#).

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk. All referrals received by the TRA will continue to be considered. Where referrals on serious safeguarding matters are received, and it is deemed that there is a public interest in doing so, consideration will be given as to whether an interim prohibition order (IPO) should be put in place. The TRA will continue to progress all cases but will not schedule any hearings at the current time.

Online safety in and out of school

It is more important than ever that schools and colleges provide a safe environment, including online safety. The Acceptable Use of IT Policy remains in place during the COVID-19 closure as does the children's Safer Internet Policy.

The UK Council for Internet Safety provides information to help governing boards and proprietors assure themselves that any new arrangements continue to effectively safeguard children online.

The UK Safer Internet Centre's professional online safety helpline also provides support for the children's workforce with any online safety issues they face. Local authorities may also be able to provide support.

As the majority of children will not be physically attending the school, any concerns regarding online safety should be dealt with as per the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and, as required, the police.

All schools and colleges should consider the safety of their children when they are asked to work online. We have provided work activities via the school website. Parent/carers have also received a list of online learning sites.



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Any introduction/use of online learning tools and systems must be in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements and should signpost children to age appropriate practical support from the likes of:

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

Pupils at Sawley Infant & Nursery School are not currently being required to access any new online learning tools. If staff wish to 'sign up' pupils to online learning environments – this should be discussed with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team first.

School will remain in regular contact with parents and carers and will reinforce the importance of children being safe online. It is especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being encouraged to do online.

The school will send reminders to all parents to highlight online safety and provide links to support information for parents and carers to keep their children safe online including:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

Mental health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of adults and children alike. Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils. We will also signpost all pupils, parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed monthly by DSLs Marie Harral & Becky Morley and Designated Safeguarding Governors James Wilton & Diane Dakin. At every review, it will be shared for approval by the full governing board.

Staff must be aware of this addendum and keep themselves up to date as it is revised. The revised policy will be shared on the school website. An update link will be shared via staff WhatsApp / e-mail groups.