



Temporary Policy Addendum:

COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Woodfield Primary School

This Policy addendum is effective from 4th January 2021 – 15th February 2021

School Name: Woodfield Primary School

Policy owner: N.Fallon

Date: 11.1.21

Date shared with staff: 13.1.21

Arrangements in school

As children return to school the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) will be available in school. If they are not able to be in school a member of the Senior Leadership team will take responsibility for safeguarding within school and a member of staff with Advanced Safeguarding training will be available in school whenever possible. However, the DSL/ DDSL will be available via **phone** unless extenuating circumstances prevent this.

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Staff in school will be made aware of who to go to should they have a safeguarding concern following the return of pupils to school. **All staff should follow safeguarding procedures according to the schools Safeguarding Policy and KCSIE.**

Vulnerable Pupils

Key contacts

Remain as per the School Safeguarding Policy.

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child;
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan;
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
 - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

For those vulnerable pupils not returning to school contact will continue to be made 2/3 times per week by a member of the Inclusion Team who is Advanced Safeguarding trained. Any concerns or issues will be passed on directly to the DSL / DDSL.

Local authorities have the key day-to-day responsibility for delivery of children's social care. Social workers and virtual school heads will continue to work with vulnerable children in this difficult period.

The DSL and DDSL will continue to work closely with parents and carers, social care, PAFS and other external agencies to ensure information is shared.

When pupils or families are identified as vulnerable during the Corona Virus restrictions the DSL / DDSL will liaise with social care and other external services to assess need and provide support. This includes attending Strategy meetings, Initial Case Conferences as well as any other meetings required.

Attendance monitoring

All pupils who are not expected to be in school during the weeks commencing 4 and 11 January, should be recorded as 'code X'.

Children for whom on-site provision is being provided should be recorded in line with the normal school attendance requirements.

Shielding advice is currently in place and so all children still deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school.

The SLT and Inclusion Team will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – they will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

Parents/carers will be contacted via phone, email or text.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, their social worker will be notified.

All pupils who are remote learning will be contacted at least once per fortnight by school staff.

Updating Records and CPOMs

During the Corona Virus restrictions/ lockdown the DSL, DDSL and the Inclusion team member with Advanced Safeguarding training have shared information and recorded contact made with the most vulnerable families and pupils. Any information / developments considered significant at the time have been recorded on CPOMs. As pupils return to school this will continue with Social Care and external agencies being kept up to date with any relevant information.

Supporting children not in school

Woodfield Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

The communication plans can include remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded on the schools RAG rated list and CPOMs updated accordingly. The DSL and DDSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the DSL and DDSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share any relevant safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Woodfield Primary School recognises that they are a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers.

Supporting children in school

Woodfield Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils.

It will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Woodfield Primary School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

Woodfield Primary School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMs as appropriate.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Woodfield Primary School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

Mental Health

The recent Corona Virus Crisis can have a negative impact on both pupils and adults' mental health and wellbeing. One of the ways this can present in pupils is a changes to their behaviour or emotional state. As a school who has adopted the Thrive Approach we are best placed to recognise and support the emotional needs of our pupils. All staff should ensure they follow the Thrive Approach, in particular the Vital Relational Functions if a child exhibits any worrying behaviour. Any concerns should be passed on to the DSL/ DDSL. Additional advice can be found on the following link:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus>

Domestic Violence

The government has acknowledged that the order to stay at home can cause anxiety for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse. There is never an excuse for domestic abuse, no matter what the circumstances are.

For anyone who feels they are at risk of abuse, there is help and support available including police response, online support, helplines, refuges and other services. Witnessing and experiencing domestic abuse can have a serious impact on a child's long-term health and emotional development.

The school is aware of the increased risk of domestic violence during the corona virus restrictions. Staff understand the significance in any changes which may present in a pupils' behaviour and emotional state. They understand the importance of referring any immediately concerns to the DSL or DDSL.

The following organisations are available for support and advice on Domestic Violence

NSPCC

The [NSPCC](#) has issued guidance for spotting and reporting the signs of abuse on their website. The [NSPCC Helpline](#) is available for anyone with concerns about a child to contact for professional advice and support.

Telephone: 0808 800 5000

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Childline

[Childline](#) is available for children and young people to reach out for help and support by phone or using their online chat service. They also provide specific guidance for young people on how to get help and what to do if they are worried about a friend.

Telephone: 0800 1111

Barnardo's

[Barnardo's](#) provides support to families affected by domestic abuse

Family Lives

[Family Lives](#) also provide support through online forums.

Information on child contact arrangements

[Rights of Women](#) provides guidance about child contact arrangements relating to coronavirus.

Online safety in school

Woodfield Primary School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Online safety away from school

The school will do what it reasonably can to keep all their children safe. Whilst some children return to school, others will continue to stay at home and, in many cases, will be continuing to engage with their school online.

Staff who interact with pupils, including online, will continue to look out for signs that a pupil may be at risk. Any concerns will be dealt with according to the Safeguarding Policy and where appropriate referrals will be made to children's social care and as required the police.

Any use of online learning tools and systems will be in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider IF there are virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s, groups only
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms specified by senior managers and approved by our IT network manager / provider to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

Schools will continue to be in regular contact with pupils and their families. They will use this as an opportunity to reinforce the importance of pupils being safe online. This will include making parents and carers aware of what their child is being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access.

- In addition, parents/ carers can access information about keeping their children safe online through the following agencies: [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- [Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support

- [Internet Matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC and O2, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services
- Government has also provided:
- [support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online harms](#), includes advice about specific harms such as online child sexual abuse, sexting, and cyberbullying
- [support to stay safe online](#) includes security and privacy settings, blocking unsuitable content, and parental controls

For further information please refer to the addendum in the IT Policy (Point 9)