

Child protection and safeguarding: COVID-19 addendum

WASHWOOD HEATH NURSERY SCHOOL



Washwood Heath
Nursery School

Signed Chair of Governors	
Policy Approved on:	28 September 2022

Contents

Important contacts	2
1. Scope and definitions	3
2. Core safeguarding principles	3
3. Reporting concerns.....	3
4. DSL (and deputy) arrangements	4
5. Working with other agencies	4
6. Monitoring attendance	5
7. Peer-on-peer abuse.....	5
8. Concerns about a staff member or volunteer	5
9. Contact plans	5
10. Safeguarding all children	6
11. Online safety.....	6
12. Mental health	7
13. Staff recruitment	7
14. Safeguarding induction and training	8
15. Keeping records of who's on site.....	8
16. Children attending other settings.....	8
17. Monitoring arrangements.....	9
18. Links with other policies.....	9

Important contacts

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)	Dr V. Daniel	0121 4641810 v.daniel@washwdhn.bham.sch.uk
Deputy DSL	J. Kaur, , S. Akhtar, S. Parveen	0121 4641810
Designated member of senior leadership team if DSL (and deputy) can't be on site	M. Dhahan	0121 4641810
Headteacher	Dr V Daniel	0121 4641810 v.daniel@washwdhn.bham.sch.uk
Chair of governors	A Bradbury	a.bradbury@washwdhn.bham.sch.uk

1. Scope and definitions

This addendum applies during the period of phased return following school closure due to COVID-19. It reflects updated advice from our 3 local safeguarding partners Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership and local authority (LA) Birmingham City Council.

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.

Unless covered here, our normal child protection policy continues to apply.

The Department for Education's definition of 'vulnerable children' includes those who:

- Are assessed as being in need, including children:
 - With a child protection plan
 - With a child in need plan
 - Looked after by the local authority
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- Have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or LAs, for example those who are:
 - On the edge of receiving support from children's social care services
 - Adopted
 - At risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - Living in temporary accommodation
 - Young carers
 - Considered vulnerable at the provider and LA's discretion

2. Core safeguarding principles

We will still have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

Although we are operating in a different way to normal, we are still following these important safeguarding principles:

- The best interests of children must come first
- If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act on it immediately
- A designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy should be available at all times (see section 4 for details of our arrangements)
- It's essential that unsuitable people don't enter the school workforce or gain access to children
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online

3. 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, both for children continuing to attend or returning to school and those at home.

Record concerns on My Concern and report to DSL immediately.

Any significant concerns about the safety and/or welfare of a child or young person telephone the Children's Advice & Support Service (CASS) on 0121 303 1888 or via secure email; CASS@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk.

As a reminder, all staff should continue to work with and support children's social workers, where they have one, to help protect vulnerable children.

4. DSL (and deputy) arrangements

We aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible. Details of all important contacts are listed in the 'Important contacts' section at the start of this addendum.

[Adapt as necessary according to the arrangements you have in place:]

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be in school, they can be contacted remotely by: [insert contact details].

If our DSL (or deputy) is unavailable, we will share a DSL with [insert school name]. Their DSL can be contacted by: [insert contact details].

We will keep all school staff and volunteers informed by email as to who will be the DSL (or deputy) on any given day, and how to contact them.

We will ensure that DSLs (and deputies), wherever their location, know who the most vulnerable children in our school are.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding. This will be members of SLT:

- Jatinder Kaur, Deputy Head Teacher
- Sanam Parveen, Senior Teacher
- Sadia Akhtar: Nursery 1 Manager

You can contact them by: telephone 0121 464 1810 or enquiry@washwdhn.bham.sch.uk.

The senior leader will be responsible for liaising with the off-site DSL (or deputy) to make sure they (the senior leader) can:

- › Identify the most vulnerable children in school
- › Update and manage access to child protection files, where necessary
- › Liaise with children's social workers where they need access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments
- › Contact CASS or Forward Thinking Birmingham to make appropriate referral dependent on need.

5. Working with other agencies

We will continue to work with children's social care and with virtual school heads for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

We will continue to update this addendum where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- › Our 3 local safeguarding partners

Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership is independently chaired and consists of three key partners. In Birmingham the Local Authority, Birmingham & Solihull CCG and West Midlands Police share equal responsibility for developing and leading the partnership arrangements.

Any concerns about the safety and/or welfare of a child or young person telephone the Children's Advice & Support Service (CASS) on 0121 303 1888 or via secure email; CASS@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk.

Outside of normal office hours please call 0121 675 4806 for the Emergency Duty Team

- The local authority about 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

The following guidance is currently in place:

Accessing the link below has documents that have been produced by Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership to provide advice for professionals and to help safeguard children during the Coronavirus pandemic.

<http://www.lscpbirmingham.org.uk/resources>

6. Monitoring attendance

We will resume taking our attendance register. We will also continue to submit the Department for Education's daily online attendance form, until no longer asked to do so.

Where any child we expect to attend school doesn't attend, or stops attending, we will:

- Follow up on their absence with their parents or carers, by initial telephone contact and if absence continues, a home visit will be carried out with social distancing measures.
- Notify their social worker, where they have one

We will make arrangements with parents and carers to make sure we have up-to-date emergency contact details, and additional contact details where possible. This will be done prior to children starting back at school and a parent declaration form will have to be signed.

7. Peer-on-peer abuse

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education when managing reports and supporting victims of peer-on-peer abuse.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately – about both children attending school and those at home.

Follow same recording procedures on My Concern and make referrals through Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership or contact social worker if there is one allocated to the child or family.

8. Concerns about a staff member or volunteer

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately – whether those concerns are about staff/volunteers working on site or remotely.

The **LADO** Team can be contacted on 0121 675 1669

or via email: Ladoteam@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk.

We will continue to refer adults who have harmed or pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

We will continue to refer potential cases of teacher misconduct to the Teaching Regulation Agency. We will do this using the email address Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk for the duration of the COVID-19 period, in line with government guidance.

9. Contact plans

We have contact plans for children with a social worker, and other 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

Each child has an individual plan, which sets out [adapt the following points to reflect your own arrangements]:

- How often the school will make contact – this will be at least once a week
- Which staff member(s) will make contact – as far as possible, this will be staff who know the family well
- How staff will make contact – this will be over the phone, doorstep visits, or a combination of both
- Add in anything else you include in plans here

We have agreed these plans with children's social care where relevant, and will review them [insert how often you'll review the plans].

If we can't make contact, we will [insert measures, for example contacting children's social care or the police].

10. 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 effects on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on concerns immediately in line with the procedures set out in section 3 above.

10.1 Children returning to school

The DSL (or deputy) will do all they reasonably can to find out from parents and carers whether there have been any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that they should be aware of before the child returns.

If this is the case for your school include: The DSL (and deputy) will be given more time to support staff and children regarding new concerns (and referrals as appropriate) as more children return to school.

Staff and volunteers will be alert to any new safeguarding concerns as they see pupils in person.

10.2 Children at home

The school will maintain contact with children who are not yet returning to school. Staff will try to speak directly to children at home to help identify any concerns. They will use school phones and devices to make calls home. Or, if necessary they will use personal phones but they will withhold their personal number.

Staff and volunteers will look out for signs like:

- Not completing assigned work or logging on to school systems
- No contact from children or families
- Seeming more withdrawn during any class check-ins or video calls

11. Online safety

11.1 In school

We will continue to have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place in school.

If IT staff are unavailable, our contingency plan is [insert details of contingency plans for IT support, e.g. from another school, your LA, or your multi-academy trust].

11.2 Outside school

Where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow our existing staff behaviour policy/code of conduct/IT acceptable use policy [delete as applicable].

[Add information here about acceptable use of technology, staff/pupil relationships and communication, including the use of social media, or signpost to your existing policies. Include details of how you're ensuring appropriate safeguarding practices in your approach to remote learning – for example, if you're pre-recording videos to share, making video calls or phoning pupils.]

Staff will continue to be alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm online, and act on any concerns immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out in section 3 of this addendum.

We will make sure children know how to report any concerns they have back to our school, and signpost them to other sources of support too.

11.3 Working with parents and carers

We will make sure parents and carers:

- Are aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of staying safe online
- Know what our school is asking children to do online, including what sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school
- Are aware that they should only use reputable online companies or tutors if they wish to supplement the remote teaching and resources our school provides
- Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online

- Sign post parents to resources and guidance regarding online-safety such as:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

12. Mental health

12.1 Children returning to school

Staff and volunteers will be aware of the possible effects that this period may have had on pupils' mental health. They will look out for behavioural signs, including pupils being fearful, withdrawn, aggressive, oppositional or excessively clingy, to help identify where support may be needed.

Further support can be offered by the Communication and Autism Team and Educational Psychology Service and NHS Mental Health support offer (link below)

<https://www.birminghamandsolihullccg.nhs.uk/your-health/mental-health-support-offer>

12.2 Children at home

Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils. [Insert details here of support and any changes to your usual approaches, e.g. offering counselling over the phone instead of face-to-face.]

We will also signpost all pupils, parents/carers 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.

13. Staff recruitment

13.1 Recruiting new staff and volunteers

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.

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.

Similarly, temporary measures allow right to work checks to be carried out by verifying scanned documents on a video call. If we need to take this approach, we will follow [Home Office and Immigration Enforcement guidance](#).

We will continue to do our usual checks on new volunteers, and do risk assessments to decide whether volunteers who aren't in regulated activity should have an enhanced DBS check, in accordance with paragraphs 167-172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

13.2 Staff 'on loan' from other schools

We will assess the risks of staff 'on loan' working in our school, and seek assurance from the 'loaning' school that staff have had the appropriate checks. **By Senior Leadership Team**

We will also use the DBS Update Service, where these staff have signed up to it, to check for any new information.

14. Safeguarding induction and training

We will make sure staff and volunteers are aware of changes to our procedures and local arrangements.

14.1 New and 'on loan' staff induction

New staff and volunteers will continue to receive:

- A safeguarding induction
- A copy of our children protection policy (and this addendum)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education part 1

We will decide on a case-by-case basis what level of safeguarding induction staff 'on loan' need. In most cases, this will be:

- A copy of our child protection policy and this addendum
- Confirmation of local processes
- Confirmation of DSL arrangements

14.2 DSL training

The DSL (and deputy) may not be able to take part in training during this period. If this is the case, the DSL (and deputy) will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

The DSL (and deputy) will do what they reasonably can to keep up to date with safeguarding developments, such as via safeguarding partners, newsletters and professional advice groups.

15. Keeping records of who's on site

We will keep a record of which staff and volunteers are on site each day, and that appropriate checks have been carried out for them.

We will continue to keep our single central record up to date.

We will use the single central record to log:

- Everyone working or volunteering in our school each day, including staff 'on loan'
- Details of any risk assessments carried out on staff and volunteers on loan from elsewhere

16. Children attending other settings

Where children are temporarily required to attend another setting, we will make sure the receiving school is provided with any relevant welfare and child protection information.

Wherever possible, our DSL (or deputy) and/or special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) will share, as applicable:

- › The reason(s) why the child is considered vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them
- › The child's EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or personal education plan
- › Details of the child's social worker
- › Details of the virtual school head

Where the DSL, deputy or SENCO can't share this information, the senior leader(s) identified in section 4 will do this.

We will share this information before the child arrives as far as is possible, and otherwise as soon as possible afterwards.

17. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the 3 local safeguarding partners, the LA or Department for Education is updated, and as a minimum **every 4 weeks** by **Valerie Daniel, Head Teacher**. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

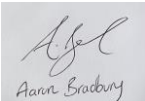
18. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- › Child protection and Safeguarding policy
- › Keeping Children Safe in Education
- › Staff **code of conduct**
- › IT acceptable use policy
- › Health and safety policy
- › Online safety policy

List any other related policies and procedures that the school has here – for example, whistle-blowing or anti-bullying, if you have these separately.

Signed Chair of Governors



Aaron Bradley

Policy Approved on: 30 September 2021

