



Clanfield Church of England Primary School

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING ADDENDUM – JANUARY 2021

Approved by:	Chair of Governors	Date Adopted: 18.01.2021
Last reviewed:	January 2021	
Review Cycle:	Termly	

SAFEGUARDING POLICY ADDENDUM (COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS)

COVID-19 Child Protection Policy Addendum (January 2021)

During the arrangements put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Child Protection / Safeguarding policy will continue to apply unless superseded by the provisions set out here. This addendum will be reviewed and revised to take account of ongoing changes to COVID-19 guidance and arrangements.

The current addendum has been revised to take account of the Safeguarding Guidance (see page 39) outlined in Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools Guidance for all schools in England.

The key updates for most children learning remotely from the beginning of the January 2021 are:

- Schools must continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping children safe in education.
- School has reviewed its child protection policy (led by our designated safeguarding lead) to reflect the move to remote education for most pupils from 5th January 2021. This addendum summarises related changes and all staff working in the school are aware of the revised policy.
- There should be no change to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which remain the responsibility of the three safeguarding partners (local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and chief officers of police). We expect all local safeguarding partners to be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats and ensure vulnerable children and young persons are safe – particularly as more children and young people will be learning remotely.
- It is expected that schools will have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. However, it is recognised that for some schools there may be operational challenges to this. In such cases, there are two options to consider: a. a trained DSL (or deputy) from the school can be available to be contacted via phone or online video, for example working from home; b. sharing trained DSLs (or deputies) with other schools (who should be available to be contacted via phone or online video).
- Staff will continue to report all safeguarding concerns in the usual way (including allegations and safeguarding concerns about adults working in school) and be thoroughly briefed about any changes that are required – e.g. where the DSL or headteacher may be isolating/working from home.
- Where a child known to social care is required to isolate at home, the DSL will immediately inform the social care worker allocated to the case.
- Parents/carers of vulnerable children who are asked to isolate/work from home will be regularly contacted by school staff. School leaders will agree with the relevant teacher/s who will make contact and when, how it will be logged and reported to the DSL. Where parents or carers do not respond to calls or visits, a risk assessment will be completed and a referral to Children's Services considered.
- Staff engaged in remote teaching and learning will follow the code of conduct guidance set out in the Safer Working Practice Addendum April 2020 (Safer Recruitment Consortium) and the school's own guidance in the 'remote learning policy January 2021'.
- The online safety of children who may be learning remotely at home will be considered and any necessary adjustments made to networks and school devices used for this purpose. Children will be taught how to stay safe online when they are learning remotely. For example, ground rules sent out and teachers reinforce at the start of lessons; revisit in-class learning and links sent out via GC to useful videos/resources used.
- Safer Recruitment procedures will continue to be robustly applied including where virtual interviews may be used and if so, a risk assessment will be completed.

- The Single Central Record will be continuously updated and include the details of any staff who may be engaged in teaching and learning from home and any catch-up tutors employed by the school, for example.

Remote education

The temporary continuity direction makes it clear that schools have a duty to provide remote education for state-funded, school-age children whose attendance would be contrary to government guidance or law around coronavirus (COVID-19). The Direction requires schools to have regard to this guidance. Ofsted inspection will consider the quality of schools' remote education in accordance with the expectations set out in this guidance.

The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school and will include both recorded or live direct teaching time, and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. The amount of remote education provided should be, as a minimum:

- Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children
- Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day which can include up to 3 hrs of live/blended learning opportunities as well as set afternoon activities.

If parents feel their children's school is not providing remote education of a suitable quantity and quality, they are encouraged to in the first instance raise their concerns with the teacher or headteacher.

In the context of schools limiting attendance to all but vulnerable children and children of critical workers, schools are expected to build on their existing remote education provision, ensuring a strong offer is in place for all pupils.

Key points for safeguarding and remote learning

It is our duty as practitioners to ensure we have read the January 2021 Remote Learning policy – and this will be reviewed every 4 weeks. We will:

- Make sure parents and carers understand our Curriculum offer. The termly Curriculum map will be shared with families and lessons will be shared in advance so parents can plan their week.
- Any sites/apps required will be shared with parents. Staff will support families if they are struggling with the technology.
- -E-safety lessons will be taught at least every 6 weeks especially in KS2.
- Encourage parents to adopt controls and filters at home- blur background in all cases if possible
- Provide regular communication with parents/carers about finding the balance between support and independence
- Introduce the Parent Code of Conduct if necessary
- Through newsletters we will make parents/carers aware of the best online safety resources e.g. Thinkuknow ,Childnet,
- Report safeguarding concerns in the usual way if 'something doesn't feel right' - any information tells a story.

Key points for talking to parents/carers

We will:

- Communicate with parents/carers within school hours as much as possible (or hours agreed with the school to suit the needs of staff)
- Communicate through the school channels approved by the senior leadership team
- Use school email accounts (not personal ones)
- Use school devices over personal devices wherever possible
- Block personal number if used when providing remote pastoral support
- Advise teachers not to share personal information
- Provide one-to-one sessions in some circumstances e.g. to provide pastoral care or provide support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Ensure there is always a parent available in the house?
- Consider including a parent or additional staff member in the call
- Record conversations if necessary-written or recordings. A clear written record of the session will also be written and saved onto CPOMs for the DSL to investigate.

Safeguarding tips for livestreaming lessons

- Use school accounts only
- Use SLT approved systems
- Include all students – SEND can work 1:1 if suits need
- Ensure the background is appropriate and staff members/children have privacy.
- Check internet links before broadcasting them
- Only conduct 1:1 when approved by a senior leader
- Remind staff about Acceptable Use Policies
- Remind staff about reporting safeguarding as usual
- Set clear ground rules, including how children can ask questions
- Regularly communicate with DPO (Data Protection Officer) if ever uncertain
- Let parents know, via the newsletter and Remote Learning Policy, that lessons will be recorded

Staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable

Guidance from the Department for Education

Following the reintroduction of shielding, clinically extremely vulnerable staff are advised not to attend the workplace. Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals are those identified through a letter from the NHS or a specialist doctor as in the group deemed clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV or shielding list). Staff who are identified as clinically extremely vulnerable should follow the published guidance.

Staff should talk to the headteacher about how they will be supported, including to work from home. Schools should continue to pay clinically extremely vulnerable staff on their usual terms.

Those living with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable can still attend work where home-working is not possible.

Staff who are clinically vulnerable

Guidance from the Department for Education

Clinically vulnerable staff can continue to attend school where it is not possible to work from home. While in school they should follow the sector-specific measures in this document to minimise the risks of transmission.

This includes taking particular care to observe good hand and respiratory hygiene, minimising contact and maintaining social distancing in line with the provisions set out in the 'prevention' section of this guidance. This provides that ideally, adults should maintain 2 metre distance from others, and where this is not possible avoid close face to face contact and minimise time spent within 1 metre of others. While the risk of transmission between young children and adults is likely to be low, adults should continue to take care to socially distance themselves from other adults including older children and adolescents.

People who live with those who are clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable can attend the workplace but should ensure they maintain good prevention practice in the workplace and home settings.

Staff who are pregnant

Guidance from the Department for Education

Pregnant staff and their employers should follow the advice in the Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for pregnant employees. Home working needs to be offered in the latter stages of the pregnancy.

Pregnant women are in the 'clinically vulnerable' category and are generally advised to follow the above advice, which applies to all staff in schools. All pregnant women should take particular care to practise frequent thorough hand washing, and cleaning of frequently touched areas in their home or workspace, and follow the measures set out in the system of controls section of this guidance to minimise the risks of transmission. Pregnant women are not advised to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

An employer's workplace risk assessment should already consider any risks to female employees of childbearing age and, in particular, risks to new and expectant mothers (for example, from working conditions, or the use of physical, chemical or biological agents). Any risks identified must be included and managed as part of the general workplace risk assessment. As part of their risk assessment, employers should consider whether adapting duties and/or facilitating home working may be appropriate to mitigate risks

If a school is notified that an employee is pregnant, breastfeeding, or has given birth within the last 6 months, the employer should check the workplace risk assessment to see if any new risks have arisen. If risks are identified during the pregnancy, in the first 6 months after birth, or while the employee is still breastfeeding, the employer must take appropriate sensible action to reduce, remove or control them.

While it is a legal obligation for employers to regularly review general workplace risks, there is not necessarily a requirement to conduct a specific, separate risk assessment for new and expectant mothers. However, an assessment may help identify any additional action that needs to be taken to mitigate risks.

Employers should be aware that pregnant women from 28 weeks' gestation, or with underlying health conditions at any gestation, may be at greater risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19). This is because, although pregnant women of any gestation are at no more risk of contracting the virus than any other non-pregnant person who is in similar health, for those women who are 28 weeks pregnant and beyond there is an increased risk of becoming severely ill, and of pre-term birth, should they contract coronavirus (COVID-19).

This is also the case for pregnant women with underlying health conditions that place them at greater risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19).

We recommend that schools follow the same principles for pregnant pupils, in line with their wider health and safety obligations

Read more guidance and advice on <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/>

Staff who may otherwise be at increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19)

Guidance from the Department for Education

Some people with particular characteristics may be at comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19). Where it is not possible to work from home, these staff can attend school as long as the system of controls set out in this guidance are in place. The reasons for the disparities are complex and there is ongoing research to understand and translate these findings for individuals in the future. Further information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drivers-of-the-higher-covid-19-incidence-morbidity-and-mortality-among-minority-ethnic-groups-23-september-2020>

People who live with those who may have comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) can attend the workplace where it is not possible to work from home.

Attendance

Guidance from the Department for Education

During the period of national lockdown, primary, secondary, alternative provision and special schools will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers only (recognising that the characteristics of the cohorts in special schools and alternative provision will mean these settings continue to offer face to face provision for all pupils, where appropriate). All other pupils should receive remote education. Pupils who are self-isolating should not attend school. Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils are also advised not to attend school.

Schools should continue to record attendance in the register. Schools should follow up on absences of the pupils who are expected to be in school but where a parent wishes for their child to be absent, we expect schools to authorise the absence during this national lockdown period. Absence will not be penalised.

Critical workers

Guidance from the Department for Education

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school if required. This includes parents who may be working from home.

Schools should speak to parents and carers to identify who needs to go to school. If it proves necessary, schools can ask for simple evidence that the parent in question is a critical worker, such as their work ID badge or pay slip. Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

Vulnerable children and young people

Guidance from the Department for Education

The definition of vulnerable children and young people includes children who have a social worker, an education, health and care plan (EHCP) or who may be vulnerable for another reason at local discretion (“otherwise vulnerable”).

Schools are expected to allow and strongly encourage vulnerable children and young people to attend. Parents/carers of vulnerable children and young people are strongly encouraged to take up the place.

If vulnerable children and young people do not attend, schools should:

- work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) to follow up with the parent or carer to explore the reason for absence, discussing their concerns using supporting guidance considering the child’s circumstances and their best interests;
- work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) and other relevant partners to encourage the child or young person to attend educational provision, particularly where the social worker agrees that the child or young person’s attendance would be appropriate.

Where schools grant a leave of absence to a vulnerable child or young person they should still speak to parents and carers, and social workers (where applicable) to explore the reasons for this and any concerns raised. The discussions should focus on the welfare of the child or young person and ensuring that the child or young person is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home.

Where providers have had to temporarily stop on-site provision on public health advice, they should inform the local authority to discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people and work towards welcoming back pupils as soon as possible, where feasible to do so.

Regardless of setting, schools are encouraged to work collaboratively with other schools and education providers and other local partners (including the local authority, social workers, police, youth services, key workers etc.) to best facilitate opportunities for face-to-face provision for vulnerable children.

Recording attendance

All pupils who are not eligible to be in school should be marked as Code X. They are not attending because they are following public health advice.

As vulnerable children are still expected to attend school full time, they should not be marked as Code X if they are not in school (except if they are shielding, self-isolating or quarantining). If the parent of a vulnerable child wishes their child to be absent, the parent should let the school know. The Department of Education expects schools to grant applications for leave of absence given the exceptional circumstances. This should be recorded as code C (leave of absence authorised by the school) unless another authorised absence code is more applicable.

Registration will be held at 9.00am and again at 2.45pm. The Headteacher and Administration Assistant will regularly monitor attendance to seek patterns and will follow up if trends emerge.

SEN children

If a child's behaviour is escalating and causing concern, the safe person in school, even if from outside the class bubble, will prepare themselves with masks and gloves before they support the child. If a member of staff from outside the child's bubble comes into contact with the child, they must report this to the parent and DSL on site.