

Addendum: COVID-19 school arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

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Purpose

This addendum must be unique to your school/setting and needs to reflect the practise within your school/setting. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 provides clarity that education settings should have their own individual safeguarding policy. Multi-Academy Trusts may have an overarching addendum policy, but each school must be able to include procedures and information that is particularly relevant to them. It is each settings responsibility to ensure their own policy is compliant with Keeping Children Safe in Education, Early Years Foundation Stage and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#).

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This addendum of the The Edge Schools' Federation Child Protection and Safeguarding policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements. We will follow [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#)

Key contacts

Brockton CE Primary School			
Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Dave Tinker	01746 785671	head@churchpreenschool.co.uk
Deputy Designated Lead	David Lockley	01746 785671	david.lockley@taw.org.uk

Church Preen Primary School			
Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Dave Tinker	01746 785671	head@churchpreenschool.co.uk
Deputy Designated Lead	Mrs Sue Phillips	01694 771359	Click here
Deputy Designated Lead	Mrs Elle Evans	01694 771359	elle.evans@churchpreenschool.co.uk

Wistanstow CE Primary School			
Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Dave Tinker	01588 673347	head@wistanstowprimary.co.uk
Deputy Designated Lead	Mrs Barbara Townley	01588 673347	b.townley@wistanstowschool.co.uk
Deputy Designated Lead	Mrs Tamsin Griffiths	01588 673347	t.griffiths@wistanstowprimary.co.uk

What is the definition of vulnerable children in relation to this guidance?

Those who have a social worker including children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority. A child may also be deemed vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

or

Those children where professionals are concerned that they may be at increased risk of significant harm if they are not in school; this could be due to contextual safeguarding issues or existing or new pressures within a family household.

1. Designated Safeguarding Lead

Each school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL – see above tables for details

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video, for example, when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This might include updating and managing access to child protection records and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social care where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments.

It is important that staff and volunteers in each school in the federation have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, the staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to contact them.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

2. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy.

If a member of staff cannot access children's safeguarding records from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher. This will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the Headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Mrs Amber Byrne

3. Safeguarding training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

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.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter each school, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the Federation's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

4. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, The Edge Schools' Federation will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE).

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

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:

- the individual has been subject to all safer recruitment checks set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019, including an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- the individual has been subject to relevant child protection training
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual.

Where any school are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

The Edge Schools' Federation will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

The Edge Schools' Federation will 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

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current national emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, each of our schools will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Managing contact with pupils and families

5.1 Assessment of risk

All vulnerable pupils should be identified by school/setting based on potential risk and gradings given to those pupils in order of priority: Red, Amber, Green.

Red – most risk of harm or neglect and fewest protective factors (would include those with a child protection plan/LAC/identified as being at risk of Criminal Exploitation/identified as being at risk of exposure to Domestic Abuse within the household)

Amber – a moderate risk of harm, but with some protective factors (would include those identified as 'Child in Need'; and those with a social worker)

Green – some concerns escalating or unmet needs; or have been red or amber and require monitoring.

These levels would be specific to your school and be based on factors that relate to those pupils within your catchment. You may not have any pupils who fall into the above categories (CP/CIN) but can still be graded using the above flagging system. You may also consider adding your pupils with SEND into these categories.

If a child has an allocated social worker, it is advised that you liaise with that person to ensure that they are aware of whether the child is attending school or not and to agree the level of contact required and how this is carried out.

Pupils can be moved between the categories, depending on the intelligence and information available to your setting. If schools need to close, risk factors may be higher and may warrant a higher grade than usual.

5.2 Suggested contact for vulnerable pupils

RED

- Daily email or other platforms such as ClassDojo, to all parents/carers to notify them of school updates and provide parents with information to signpost for support,
- plus a twice weekly phone call/virtual contact with parents to ascertain if any further support is required and to ascertain that the pupil is safe. Ideally, this would be undertaken by the Designated Safeguarding Lead but if this is not possible, then a Deputy DSL or member of the Senior Leadership Team would be appropriate.
- (Any information or intelligence to support that a child may be at potential risk, to be reported to the designated social worker)

AMBER

- Daily email or other platforms such as ClassDojo, to all parents to notify them of school updates and provide parents with information to signpost for support
- plus a weekly phone call to parents to ascertain if any further support is required and that the pupil is safe. Ideally, this would be undertaken by the Designated Safeguarding Lead but if this is not possible, then a Deputy DSL or member of the Senior Leadership Team would be appropriate
- (Any information or intelligence to support that a child may be at potential risk, to be reported to the designated social worker or FPOC)

GREEN

- Daily email or other platforms such as ClassDojo, to all parents to notify them of school updates and provide parents with information to signpost for support. No further contact required.

Schools may also wish to consider setting up a dedicated email address that is monitored by DSLs so that any can make contact if they have any worries or concerns relating to themselves or others.

5.3 Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

For the most vulnerable pupils, staff should attend CP and CIN meetings where possible. These are currently being held remotely. If you are unable to attend, it is vital that a report is submitted.

Strategy meetings also continue to be held and DSLs should undertake their duties in the same way as before, but meetings will be held virtually.

For advice relating to reporting procedures, please refer to your school/setting Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

5.6 Conducting 'Virtual' contact with children and their families

All use of technology should continue to be in line with schools' e-safety policies.

A written record of all contact with vulnerable pupils and their parents/carers should be made and retained in accordance with current regulations. This record should include:

- Any concerns or worries raised by the child (speak directly to them.)
- Any concerns or worries raised by the parent/carer
- Summarise the situation as reported
- Note any actions that need to be undertaken

When contact is made using telephones or social media platforms or apps, where possible, please use school equipment, rather than personal devices.

Please ensure that children and parents/carers are appropriately dressed and in a communal area of their home. No interaction should take place if the child is in a bedroom or bathroom.

Staff should be mindful of confidentiality and, under no circumstances, should they carry out any conversations in the presence of their own family members at home.

Staff should be appropriately dressed following the same dress code that is implemented in their usual workplace.

Staff need to be aware of their surroundings and what can be viewed in their home environment. If possible, they should use the background 'dimming' facility on video links.

In the same way as home visits, if there are concerns around sole contact with a child or parent/carer, schools could consider having joint contact through call conferencing facilities.

6. School 'attendance' and engagement

If a child is expected to attend school but does not arrive, normal procedures should be followed.

If school staff are not able to make contact with the parent/carer, keep trying for the rest of the school day. Follow usual Education Welfare procedures for children not in school and alert the DSL if you are a deputy DSL.

If children are being cared for and educated at home and routine contact is not maintained or a parent/carer does not engage, you should take all reasonable steps to speak to the parent/carer. If this is not successful, please inform the School's assigned Education Welfare Officer.

Education Welfare Officers will be in regular contact with schools to monitor engagement with distance learning arrangements and to review the attendance of vulnerable children.

If you have concerns of significant harm report to the named Social Worker or contact FPOC on 0345 6789021. If you feel the child is at risk of immediate harm report to police. For non-urgent welfare concerns, with parental consent, you can email the MARF to compass.referrals@shropshire.gov.uk

7. Online safety in The Edge Schools' Federation

We 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.

Children and online safety away from school

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection & Safeguarding policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the school's code of conduct.

The Edge Schools' Federation will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- 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 bedrooms and if possible the background should be blurred
- Any live classes should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed
- 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.

Staff will only use work email addresses to communicate with others for professional communications. They will use established portals for sharing work and communicating, for example, ClassDoJo and Show my Homework.

8. Supporting children in school

The Edge Schools' Federation is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all its students.

The Edge Schools' Federation 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 ratios are appropriate, to maximise safety.

The Edge Schools' Federation 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.

The Edge Schools' Federation 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 the child's safeguarding file.

9. Peer-on-peer Abuse

The Edge Schools' Federation recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives 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 the Child Protection & Safeguarding policy.

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

Concerns and actions must be recorded on the child's safeguarding record and appropriate referrals made.

For further information please contact:

Jane Parsons jane.parsons@shropshire.gov.uk or Caroline Ewels caroline.ewels@shropshire.gov.uk

If your query relates to Early Years settings, please contact Fiona Purslow fiona.purslow@shropshire.gov.uk