



St Paul's CE Primary School
Child Protection Policy – COVID19 Appendix
30/03/20

This appendix has been added to reflect the changes to school provision following the national closure of schools on Friday 20th March 2020 as part of the UK Government's response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Introduction

Keeping Children Safe in Education is statutory guidance that schools and colleges continue to have regard to as per our legislative duty. It is essential that schools continue to be safe places for children.

The way schools and colleges 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 regards to safeguarding, the best interests of the children must always continue to come first
- If anyone in school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- A DSL or deputy should be available
- It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the child's workforce and/or gain access to children
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online

Policy – revisions to reflect COVID 19 – prepared by John Wright

Updated Advice

- The school will monitor and act upon any updated advice from our three local safeguarding partners – currently there are no local updates.
- The school will monitor and act upon updated advice received from local authorities regarding children with education, health and care plans (EHC), the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need – currently there are no local updates.

What to do if you have concerns about a child?

Concerns about a child should be shared using the procedure set out in the main policy. Concerns should be shared immediately and recorded on a concern sheet, in line with our standard practice.

The school's designated safeguarding lead role is currently being undertaken by Corinne Lee, the ADSL role is being undertaken by Sarah Browne.

A member of the school's safeguarding lead team is identified each day on the school's staffing rota.

In the physical absence of the DSL/ADSL from the school site, for isolation or illness, staff should speak to a member of the SLT team on site.

The school's safeguarding records are securely stored on the school site and are accessible to the DSL, ADSL and SLT.

The DSL/ADSL continue to have access to advice and onward referral through the EHH MASH team.

Working with external partners

The DSL/ADSL and SLT continue to contact and work with LBH social care, Virtual School Head and other external partner agencies. Much of this work is now done remotely, using telephone, email and video conferencing.

Visits to school will only be facilitated where they are absolutely necessary and no other 'non-contact' arrangement would suffice.

Staff working in this way need to be mindful of the need for confidentiality and of the need to verify the identity and purpose of external contacts. Staff should seek confirmation, through receipt of an official email etc. to confirm that unsolicited calls from a mobile are from a genuine source, before disclosing information.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Staff should continue to follow the procedures for peer-on-peer advice set out in the school's CP policy.

Concerns about other adults in the school

The school is not currently engaging with any volunteers. All staff with concerns about other adults working in the school should report their concern to the SLT member on duty on the day that they have their concern.

Should they have a concern about a member of the SLT, they should contact the Chair of Governors – his details are held in the school office.

Volunteers and external staff in the childcare/education workforce

The school is not currently engaging with any volunteers, but is working with our own employed staff. All such staff have been employed under the school's *Safer Recruitment* policy and procedures and have been inducted into the school's Child Protection policy.

As the national school closure progresses it may be that schools come together to form hubs. Should St Paul's School become a hub we shall seek verification of relevant safeguarding checks from the relevant employer.

External staff joining the school during the school closure period will be given a CP induction pack and a copy of the school's CP policy.

Supporting vulnerable children within a 'hub'

Should St Paul's CE Primary school become a 'hub' school, details of children joining the school will be sought from their original school. Where pupils joining a hub are classed as 'vulnerable' the school's inclusion coordinator, Mrs Corinne Lee, or a senior leader will contact the originating school. Details will be sought on the child's vulnerabilities. As a minimum these details will include:

- Access to a vulnerable child's EHC plan
- Access to a Child in Need Plan
- Access to a Child Protection Plan
- Access to a child's Personal Education Plan
- The name and contact details of any attached social worker or other relevant professional

This contact should ideally be made before the child transfers to the hub, or as soon as practicable afterwards.

This information should then be cascaded appropriately to staff within the school to ensure that the child's onward care and support is appropriate.

Sending our Staff to work in a hub

Where a hub is established for our pupils, away from our school site, staff from our school may be required to support the running of the hub. Details of the relevant safeguarding and CP induction details will be shared with the leadership of the hub, to assure them that our staff have been appropriately vetted.

It is expected that our staff will have their staff ID badge with them when attending a hub.

Our staff will be expected to enquire about and follow the Child Protection Procedures of the hub once they start working there. If they feel that these procedures are not fit for purpose, they will be expected to share their concerns with the local hub management team and, if necessary, the Local Authority.

Children and online safety

The school is not currently using any new IT platforms for pupils not currently attending school. We are supporting parents by suggesting activities and tasks using our website and the school's *Facebook* page.

We do not anticipate using Whats App or other communication tools for staff and pupils to contact one another directly.

The school is in regular contact with parents and carers and will share and reinforce the importance of children being safe online. These contacts will include advice on seeking support from online companies and individual tutors, emphasising the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children.