



Annex to the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy – 31.3.20

NB: This annex has been written in line with the DfE’s “Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers” (published 27th March 2020) and should be read alongside the school’s Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Keeping children safe in school

Although the way in which Deanwood Primary School is currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a 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 children’s workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The school’s DSL is **Jane Wright**. In the absence of the DSL, child protection matters will be dealt with by **Shakira Rumjaun**.

It is important that all school staff have access to a trained DSL or deputy and know on any given day who that person is and how to speak to them. The name of the DSL on duty will be written on the Staff Room noticeboard daily so that it is visible to all staff who are in school on that day.

The DfE guidance states that:

- a trained DSL or deputy from the school or college can be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example working from home
- sharing trained DSLs or deputies with other schools or colleges (who should be available to be contacted via phone or online video)

Where a trained DSL is not on site, in addition to one of the above options, the department recommend a senior leader takes responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This might include updating CPOMS, liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children’s social workers where they require access to children in need and / or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

The DfE have acknowledged that DSL training is very unlikely to take place during this period. 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.

Vulnerable Children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children with EHC plans. There will also be other children who have additional vulnerabilities. Ensuring that all of these children remain protected is a top priority for the school.

During the period of school closure, local authorities continue to have the key day-to-day responsibility for delivery of children’s social care. Social workers will continue to work with

vulnerable children in this difficult period and should support these children to access the school's provision. There is an expectation that children with a social worker will attend school unless, in consultation with the child's social worker and family, it is agreed this is not in the best interests of the child.

It is especially important during the COVID-19 period that school staff continue to work with and support social workers to help protect vulnerable children.

In order to remain in touch with those vulnerable children who are not in school, the DSL, deputy or nominated member of staff will make phone contact with parents / carers weekly to "check in" and to offer further support and guidance as necessary. Any concerns following this phone contact will be followed up with the named social worker or through the appropriate channels if this relates to a child with an EHCP.

Attendance

DfE guidance states that, during the COVID-19 period, schools do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

However, if the school and social worker have agreed with a family that their child / children should be attending the school but they do not attend (and do not notify the school of this through the usual absence procedures), the school will follow this up with parents / carers via a phone call. As well as this, a note will be made on CPOMS and the child's named social worker will be notified.

The department has introduced a [daily online attendance form](#) to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. The school will ensure that this is completely daily and shared with the relevant authorities for safeguarding purposes.

Staff training and safeguarding induction

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have also read part 1 of KCSIE. In order to keep them informed of any new local arrangements, they will be e-mailed a copy of this annex to familiarise themselves with.

Any new staff who are recruited will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Safer recruitment

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. If new staff are recruited, the school should continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes. In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its [guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking](#) to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

The school continues to have a legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult.

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

Mental Health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Teachers should be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. (The DfE is providing separate guidance on providing education remotely.)

The school will endeavour to ensure that appropriate support is in place for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site. (Staff may choose to use the DfE's guidance on [mental health and behaviour in schools](#) as a starting point.)

Online safety in school

During the COVID-19 period, it is more important than ever that the school provides a safe environment, including online. The school will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children when they are online on the school's IT system or recommended resources.

Children and online safety away from school

It is important to note that, in most cases, the majority of children will not be physically attending the school or college. For this reason, it is crucial 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 policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required the police.

Relevant Documents

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#)
[guidance on vulnerable children and young people](#)
[mental health and behaviour in schools](#)
[guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking](#)
[daily online attendance form](#)