



Child Protection & Safeguarding during COVID-19 pandemic

Schools are now under partial-closure in order to prevent the rapid spread of COVID-19. Practically, this means that some children remain in school whilst the majority are at home. Challenges faced by staff and families, including children in terms of Child Protection and Safeguarding are therefore slightly different to those assumed for our normal policy and this addendum to that policy should be read alongside our well established policies.

Key contacts

Role title	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead/ Head	Emma Jefferies	07870 380522	e.jefferies@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk
Deputy DSL 1	Karen Tregunna	07880 868467	k.tregunna@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk
Chair of Governors & Safeguarding governor	Catherine Williamson	07816 889485	c.williamson@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk
Leadership & Learning Partner	Sian Smith		Sian.smith@hants.gov.uk
LADO	Mark Blackwell	01962 763985	child.protection@hants.gov.uk

Vulnerable children

For the purposes of school places during COVID-19, the Government have set out who is a vulnerable child in their ['Guidance for Educational Settings'](#) which is being constantly updated. In basic terms, this means;

- A child who has a social worker, including children who have a Child Protection Plan
- Those who are looked after by the Local Authority or in foster arrangements
- Those who would be in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.
- Those with an EHC plan
- Those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

HCC have directed schools to further consider vulnerable those children who are in receipt of Primary Behaviour Service support.

Attendance monitoring

Attendance in the setting or checking in with children at home is critical to ensure the welfare and safety of children both in the vulnerable and non-vulnerable groups.

In school attenders

In order to provide as consistent an experience and maintain safety of bubbles as well as our knowledge of children's safety, all vulnerable and key worker children will be expected in school every day if their parents request a place in any week.

If booked, children should attend otherwise this may present a safeguarding concern. If they do not attend school when booked, a member of Senior Leadership Team will call home to check if the child and family are OK. Appropriate action will be taken if they are not.

For those in school, we will register them each day and submit a daily return to the DfE as required by their guidance. We will also submit the weekly return to HCC for those children deemed vulnerable because they have a social worker. This return is submitted every Friday to the LLP and james.atkins@hants.gov.uk until we are directed to cease.

At home attenders

Children working at home are required to 'register' online each day. This is then checked by a member of the Admin Team by 10am and families phoned where a child hasn't registered. If children haven't registered for 2 days, on the 2nd day, they should be contacted, a note left on CPOMS and action taken if there is no contact within 24hrs. This may involve referring to social care or police if we cannot raise anyone by the phone.



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As per Government guidance, if vulnerable children with a social worker are not attending the setting, there will be robust communication between the social worker, school and parent to explore reasons for this and ensure that children do attend as soon as they are able. Stockbridge Primary & Pre-School takes the view that children with a social worker should be in unless they are self-isolating with symptoms or another member of their household is self-isolating with symptoms or COVID-19.

Reporting a concern

It is possible that staff may have concerns when interacting with children online through their work or photos of work or when in school. Usual school reporting procedures, primarily using CPOMS as the effective means of communication should be employed.

In the unlikely event that CPOMS cannot be accessed to log a concern, staff should email the DSL directly. Where a concern relates to a member of staff, they should notify the Headteacher or DSL. Where a concern relates to the Headteacher, they should notify the LADO by phone and follow this up with an email to the address above. They should copy in the Chair of Governors.

The DSL and Deputy DSLs will continue the good practice which already exists within the school and hold a DSL conference between themselves at least three weekly with discussions noted against each child they discuss on CPOMS and shared with relevant members of staff.

Safeguarding training & DSL refreshers

All DSLs have in date training through until December 2021. Safeguarding annual training has also taken place for all staff already in the 20-21 academic year and all have read part 1 of KCSiE 2020 – a copy is saved on the Google Classroom staffroom which all staff have access to. New staff have been inducted with regards to Child Protection and Safeguarding. No new members of staff are planned to join our staff during this pandemic. If this changes, this addendum will be updated.

Staffing

Stockbridge Primary & Pre-School is committed to operating with its own staff for as long as we remain healthy and safe. This means that children will always work with an adult they know. We will not admit volunteers or other children's workforce staff onto site during this pandemic unless under separate agreement with another school. Workmen who may be on site to provide an essential service will be signed in as usual and segregated from children during their work to prevent the virus spreading.

Online safety in schools

- i. During this pandemic, we are intentionally directing all pupils and families onto Google classroom where we have established an online, protected learning environment where every user is required to sign in with an individualised username and password. Emails within this domain can only be sent to others issued with a log-on from our gatekeeper; Karen Tregunna. When working on this environment in school, children will be supervised and we encourage parents to do the same at home.
- ii. It is vital that all staff and parents are encouraged to look out for signs that a child may be at risk of online exploitation. Any such concerns will be dealt with as per the Child Protection Policy in accordance with our Acceptable use of IT policy. Both are publicly available on our [school website](#).
- iii. In their 'classroom' there will be an 'e-safety' topic which has details and links to CEOP, Childline and UK Safer Internet Centre as a bare minimum.
- iv. Children will never be asked to undertake open ended searches on browser sites such as Google such as 'search for World War 2'. Instead, they will be directed to particular web pages with direct



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web addresses or be asked to search for specific things with a given search term which has already been checked by the member of staff issuing it.

- v. Staff may post videos online of them reading stories, explaining how to do something or for another educational purpose, however they should adhere to the following guidelines:
 - they should always wear suitable clothing which is in line with their status as an educator
 - film in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms.
 - The background should be as plain as possible and no other adult or member of their household should be in view.
 - Live classes should not be used unless they can be recorded so as to view later should any issues arise. They should only be done in conjunction with the agreement from and trialling with the Headteacher.
 - In any case of filming, language must be professional and appropriate, including any household members in the background.

Mental health and wellbeing

This is an important consideration for children who are in receipt of THRIVE support in school or who are known to CAMHS or other mental health services. A THRIVE at home plan will be drawn up and shared with parents via video link (Google Meet or Zoom) in the week beginning 18 January 2021 and will be updated every work cycle that the link THRIVE practitioner is in school.

Social distancing

Stockbridge Primary & Pre-School is committed to the safety and welfare not just of the children in its care but also of its staff. We will refer to Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19. The most up-to-date guidance on social distancing [is available here](#).

All other areas of safeguarding and child protection remain as per the policies already in existence.