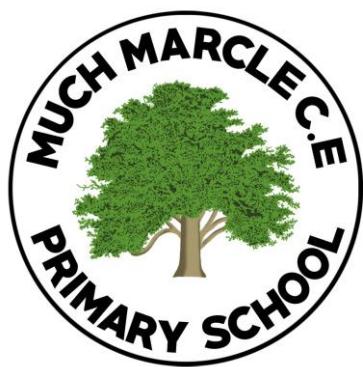


# Child Protection and Safeguarding: COVID-19 Addendum



<b>Approved by:</b>	Lorna Harrison	<b>Date:</b> 02.04.2020
<b>Next review due by:</b>		

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## Important contacts

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)	Lorna Harrison	07970200626
Deputy DSL	Laura Evans	07813482545
Other contactable DSL(s) and/or deputy DSL(s)		
Designated member of senior leadership team if DSL (and deputy) can't be on site		
Headteacher	Lorna Harrison	As above
Local authority designated officer (LADO)	Terry Pilliner	01432261739 LADO@herefordshire.gov.uk
Chair of governors	Jan Wood	

## 1. Scope and definitions

This addendum applies during the period of school closure due to COVID-19, and reflects updated advice from our local safeguarding partners and Herefordshire local authority (LA) .

It sets out changes to our normal child protection policy in light of the Department for Education's guidance [Coronavirus: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#), and should be read in conjunction with that policy.

Unless covered here, our normal child protection policy continues to apply.

The Department for Education's (DfE's) definition of 'vulnerable children' includes those who:

- Have a social worker, including children:
  - With a child protection plan
  - Assessed as being in need
  - Looked after by the local authority
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

## 2. Core safeguarding principles

We will still have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

Although we are operating in a different way to normal, we are still following these important safeguarding principles:

- The best interests of children must come first
- If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act on it immediately
- A designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy should be available at all times (see section 4 for details of our arrangements)
- It's essential that unsuitable people do not enter the premises or gain access to children
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online

## 3. Reporting concerns

All staff and volunteers must continue to act on any concerns they have about a child immediately. It is still vitally important to do this.

As a reminder, all staff should continue to work with and support children's social workers, where they have one, to help protect vulnerable children.

## 4. DSL (and deputy) arrangements

We aim to have a trained DSL Lorna Harrison or deputy DSL Laura Evans or Lucy Carter or Jo Park on site wherever possible. Details of all important contacts are listed in the 'Important contacts' section at the start of this addendum.

We will keep all staff and volunteers informed by who will be the DSL (or deputy) on any given day, and how to contact them.

We will ensure that DSLs (and deputies), wherever their location, know who the most vulnerable children are.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding. This will be the head teacher of the child's school you can contact them by using given contact details.

The senior leader will be responsible for liaising with the off-site DSL (or deputy) to make sure they (the senior leader) can:

- Identify the most vulnerable children in school
- Update and manage access to child protection files, where necessary

- Liaise with children's social workers where they need access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments

## 5. Working with other agencies

We will continue to work with children's social care, and with virtual school heads for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

We will continue to update this addendum where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- Our local safeguarding partners
- The local authority about children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need

The following guidance is currently in place:

## 6. Monitoring attendance

As most children will not be attending school during this period of school closure, we will not be completing our usual attendance registers or following our usual procedures to follow up on non-attendance

Where any child we expect to attend the provision during the closure does not attend for two days or stops attending the school will contact parents.

We are using daily attendance sheets to keep an accurate record of who is attending virtual lessons if a child misses two lessons we will;

- Follow up on their absence with their parents or carers, by teacher's email in the first instance and notify Mrs Harrison or Miss Evans.
- Notify their social worker, if they have one

We will make arrangements with parents and carers to make sure we have up-to-date emergency contact details, which are available electronically

## 7. Peer-on-peer abuse

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education when managing reports and supporting victims of peer-on-peer abuse.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately.

## 8. Concerns about a staff member or volunteer

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately.

We will continue to refer adults who have harmed or pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

We will continue to refer potential cases of teacher misconduct to the Teaching Regulation Agency. We will do this using the email address [Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk) for the duration of the COVID-19 period, in line with government guidance.

## 9. Support for children who aren't 'vulnerable' but where we have concerns

We have the option to offer places in school to children who don't meet the Department for Education's definition of 'vulnerable', but about whom we have safeguarding concerns. We will work with parents/carers to do this

## **10. Safeguarding for children not attending school**

### **10.1 Contact plans**

We have a contact plan for children with a social worker and children who we have safeguarding concerns about, for circumstances where:

- They won't be attending school (for example where the school, parent/carer and social worker, if relevant, have decided together that this wouldn't be in the child's best interests); or
- They would usually attend but have to self-isolate

### **10.2 Safeguarding all children**

Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time potentially puts all children at greater risk.

Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on concerns immediately. In particular, children are likely to be spending more time online (see section 11 below).

## **11. Online safety**

### **11.1 In school**

We will continue to have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place in school.

If staff have a problem they should contact EDUTECH on 03333449980

### **11.2 Outside school**

Where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow our existing staff behaviour policy/code of conduct/IT acceptable use policy.

Staff have been advised to follow the same rules when interacting in a virtual lesson.

- Only use designated email addresses and save all correspondence
- Only use Zoom and Purple Mash for all virtual contact
- Neutral background for staff and children
- Use waiting rooms on Zoom to eliminate one to one conversations
- Staff need to set privacy options see LFs notes
- No live lessons to be recorded.

Staff will continue to be alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm online, and act on any concerns immediately, following our reporting procedures.

### **11.3 Working with parents and carers**

We will make sure parents and carers:

- Are aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of staying safe online providing them with website links and Purple Mash Guidance
- Know what our school is asking children to do online, including what sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school
- Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online

## **12. Mental health**

Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils through daily contact.

We will also signpost all pupils, parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

## **13. Staff recruitment, training and induction**

### **13.1 Recruiting new staff and volunteers**

We continue to recognise the importance of robust safer recruitment procedures, so that adults and volunteers who work in our school are safe to work with children.

We will continue to follow our safer recruitment procedures, and part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

In urgent cases, when validating proof of identity documents to apply for a DBS check, we will initially accept verification of scanned documents via online video link, rather than being in physical possession of the original documents. This approach is in line with revised guidance from the DBS.

New staff must still present the original documents when they first attend work at our school.

We will continue to do our usual checks on new volunteers, and do risk assessments to decide whether volunteers who aren't in regulated activity should have an enhanced DBS check, in accordance with paragraphs 167-172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

### **13.2 Staff 'on loan' from other schools**

We will assess the risks of staff 'on loan' working in our school, and seek assurance from the 'loaning' school that staff have had the appropriate checks.

We will also use the DBS Update Service, where these staff have signed up to it, to check for any new information.

### **13.3 Safeguarding induction and training**

We will make sure staff and volunteers are aware of changes to our procedures and local arrangements.

New staff and volunteers will continue to receive:

- A safeguarding induction
- A copy of our children protection policy (and this addendum)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education part 1

We will decide on a case-by-case basis what level of safeguarding induction staff 'on loan' need. In most cases, this will be:

- A copy of our child protection policy and this addendum
- Confirmation of local processes
- Confirmation of DSL arrangements
  
- Details of any risk assessments carried out on staff and volunteers on loan from elsewhere

## **14. Children attending other settings**

Where children are temporarily required to attend another setting, we will make sure the receiving provider is given any relevant welfare and child protection information.

Wherever possible, our DSL (or deputy) and/or special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) will share, as applicable:

- The reason(s) why the child is considered vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them
- The child's EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or personal education plan
- Details of the child's social worker
- Details of the virtual school head

Where the DSL, deputy or SENCO can't share this information, the senior leader(s) identified in section 4 will do this.

We will share this information before the child arrives as far as is possible, and otherwise as soon as possible afterwards.

## **15. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local safeguarding partners, the LA or DfE is updated, and as a minimum every 4 weeks by Lorna Harrison.

## **16. Links with other policies**

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Child protection policy
- Staff code of conduct
- IT acceptable use policy
- Health and safety policy
- Online safety policy
- Whistle blowing policy
- Virtual working guidelines