

## COVID-19 School Closures

**Alongside our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, the following definitions and arrangements apply until further notice:**

### **Vulnerable Children**

Vulnerable children include children who have a social worker, and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

We will liaise with the Local Authority and with parents to decide whether a child with an EHCP needs to continue to be offered a place at school to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. **We understand that many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.** Eligibility for free school meals is not a key determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Our senior leaders and DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads) have the flexibility to offer a place to children who do not have a social worker but for whom some safeguarding needs have already been identified.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. We will follow the process set out in Wiltshire Councils flowchart *School attendance and children with a CiN or CP plan*, until further notice.

To support the above, we will, when communicating with parents/carers of vulnerable children, confirm that emergency contact numbers kept on the children's files are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

### **Designated Safeguarding Leads**

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, we have made arrangements for a trained DSL (or deputy) to provide advice remotely.

### **Reporting a concern**

Where a member of staff has a concern about a child, they will continue to follow the process outlined in the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Any email containing confidential information will use the @chapmanslade.wilts.sch.uk secure email.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they will continue to follow the Wiltshire process set out in the allegations flowchart published on [www.wiltshirescb.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirescb.org.uk).

### **Safeguarding Training and induction**

As DSL training is unlikely to be available during the current outbreak of Covid-19, D/DSL training will continue to meet statutory requirements, even if the refresher training and annual updates are not available within the required timescales. Our D/DSLs will keep up to date by reading government guidance.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, as appropriate.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter our school, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. 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. We will follow Wiltshire Council advice about safeguarding in relation to visiting staff/volunteers as it is published and updated on Right Choice until further notice.

Upon arrival, at our school, visiting staff working here on a temporary basis, will be given a copy of our safeguarding/child protection policy, including confirmation of D/DSL arrangements.

### **Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff**

When recruiting new staff, we will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for our school, including relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019).

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. We will follow this guidance [DBS checks during Covid-19 outbreak](#)

We will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in in KCSIE and will follow Wiltshire Council advice about safeguarding in relation to the SCR and visiting staff/volunteers as it is published and updated on Right Choice until further notice.

### **Online safety in schools and colleges**

We will continue to provide a safe online environment for staff and children. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where children are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will continue to be in place.

All staff who interact with children, including online, will continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns will be dealt with as per our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and where appropriate referrals will still be made to children's social care and as required, the police. Online teaching will follow the same principles as set out in our Staff Behaviour Policy. We will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

### **Supporting Children not in School**

We recognise that school is a protective factor for children, and the current circumstances can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers.

We will try to support any child who is vulnerable and not able to attend school. Plans will be shared with parents (and social workers where involved) and will be reviewed fortnightly.

### **Supporting Children in School**

The Head Teacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site, and that staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate. We 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 to limit the risk of spread of Covid -19.

Guidance Written 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020