



RISE

A CofE Academy Trust



SAFEGUARDING POLICY ADDENDUM (COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS)

COVID-19 Child Protection Policy Addendum (January 2021)

During the arrangements put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Child Protection / Safeguarding policy will continue to apply unless superseded by the provisions set out here. This addendum will be reviewed and revised to take account of ongoing changes to COVID-19 guidance and arrangements. The current addendum has been revised to take account of the Safeguarding Guidance ([see page 39](#)) outlined in [Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools Guidance for all schools in England](#).

The key updates for most children learning remotely from the beginning of the January 2021 are:

- Schools must continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping children safe in education](#).
- School has reviewed its child protection policy (led by our designated safeguarding lead) to reflect the move to remote education for most pupils from January 5th 2021. This addendum summarises related changes and all staff working in the school are aware of the revised policy.
- There should be no change to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which remain the responsibility of the three safeguarding partners (local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and chief officers of police). We expect all local safeguarding partners to be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats and ensure vulnerable children and young persons are safe – particularly as more children and young people will be learning remotely.
- It is expected that schools will have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. However, it is recognised that for some schools there may be operational challenges to this. In such cases, there are two options to consider:
 - a. a trained DSL (or deputy) from the school can be available to be contacted via phone or online video, for example working from home;
 - b. sharing trained DSLs (or deputies) with other schools (who should be available to be contacted via phone or online video).
- Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to one of the above options, a senior leader should take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.
- The school's standard procedures will be applied in the case of absence, taking account of current national lockdown requirements.

The following has been reviewed and remains in place:

- If the DSL and all other trained Deputy DSLs are isolating away from school, where possible, they will continue to be available to support and advise staff with safeguarding concerns. In this scenario, or where a DSL or Deputy is not available, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be designated to respond on site to safeguarding

concerns. Staff will continue to report all safeguarding concerns in the usual way (including allegations and safeguarding concerns about adults working in school) and be thoroughly briefed about any changes that are required – e.g. where the DSL or headteacher may be isolating at home.

- Where a child known to social care is required to isolate at home, the DSL will immediately inform the social care worker allocated to the case.
- Parents/carers of vulnerable children who are asked to isolate at home will be regularly contacted by school staff. School leaders will agree with the relevant teacher/s who will make contact and when, how it will be logged and reported to the DSL. Where parents or carers do not respond to calls or visits, a risk assessment will be completed and a referral to Children's Services considered.
- There may be a greater prevalence of mental health concerns when children return to school following a period of isolating at home. Staff will be briefed about this and time will be made available to the DSL or other relevant staff to support children as required.
- [Children will be expected to attend school unless a special arrangement is agreed. The school's standard procedures will be applied in the case of absence.] *This procedure is now amended to reflect the 3rd national lockdown and the expectation that most pupils will learn remotely except vulnerable and critical worker children.*
- Where a parent or carer indicates that they intend to electively home educate because of concerns related to COVID-19, before removing the child from the school roll, a meeting will be arranged involving the parent / carer, the local authority Inclusion Service and any other key professional e.g. social worker. All the options will be explored in order that the parents fully understand what is involved and so that the best interests of each individual child can be carefully considered before making a final decision. This is particularly important where vulnerable children, children with a social worker, and those at greatest risk of harm are involved. Where an EHCP is in place for the child the local authority will be asked to give consent to Elective Home Education before removing the child from the school roll.
- Staff engaged in remote teaching and learning will follow the code of conduct guidance set out in the [Safer Working Practice Addendum April 2020 \(Safer Recruitment Consortium\)](#) and the school's own guidance in the 'Rationale and guide for remote learning January 2021'.
- The online safety of children who may be learning remotely at home will be considered and any necessary adjustments made to networks and school devices used for this purpose. Children will be taught how to stay safe online when they are learning remotely. For example, ground rules sent out and teachers reinforce at the start of lessons; revisit in-class learning and links sent out via seesaw to useful videos/resources used.
- Safer Recruitment procedures will continue to be robustly applied including where virtual interviews may be used and if so, a risk assessment will be completed.
- The Single Central Record will be continuously updated and include the details of any staff who may be engaged in teaching and learning from home and any catch-up tutors employed by the school, for example.

The following specifically relates to remote learning (following Leicestershire County Council guidance).

Key points for safeguarding and remote learning

- Follow the principles set out in the school's staff behaviour policy
- Make sure parents and carers understand what you're planning
 - Sites/apps being used
 - Which staff will be interacting with their child
- Encourage parents to adopt controls and filters at home
- Make parents aware of the best online safety resources e.g.
 - Thinkuknow
 - Childnet
 - Parent info
- Report safeguarding concerns in the usual way

Key points for talking to parents

- Communicate within school hours as much as possible (or hours agreed with the school to suit the needs of staff)

- Communicate through the school channels approved by the senior leadership team
- Use school email accounts (not personal ones)
- Use school devices over personal devices wherever possible
- Advise teachers not to share personal information
- Block personal number if used

Providing remote pastoral support

- Communicate within school hours as much as possible (or hours agreed with the school to suit the needs of staff)
- One-to-one sessions could be appropriate in some circumstances e.g. to provide pastoral care or provide support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Must be approved by the senior leadership team to assess any risks
- Is a parent also available in the house?
- Additional contact details in case remote session goes down etc.
- Consider including a parent or additional staff member in the call

20 safeguarding tips for livestreaming lessons (LGfL)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use school accounts only • Use SLT approved systems • Include <u>all</u> students – SEND? • Consider backgrounds/spaces used - privacy • Check internet links before broadcasting them • Have app settings been audited and checked before use? • Consider vulnerable students • Be careful not to stream by mistake • Have another colleague present • Start slowly – get it right • Keep a log – what, when, who? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you want students to use chat? • Avoid 1:1 unless approved • Remind all about Acceptable Use Policies • Remind all about reporting safeguarding as usual • Recording? Are students doing it secretly? • How can they ask questions? • Set clear ground rules • Make sure you understand how it works – or it won't be safe • Is the DPO happy? Consent? |
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