

Stoke Park Junior School Child Protection Policy Coronavirus Addendum

January 2021



Approved by: Allison Jenkins
Date: January 2021
Next Review Date: March 2021

Important contacts

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)	Allison Jenkins	a.jenkins@stokeparkjun.hants.sch.uk
Deputy DSL	Caroline Grist Sally Thomas	Name@stokeparkjunior.co.uk
Designated member of senior leadership team if DSL (and deputy) can't be on site	Sonia Mathias	02380 612789 Sonia.mathias@stokeparkjunior.co.uk
Headteacher	Allison Jenkins	See above
Local authority designated officer (LADO)	Barbara Piddington Mark Blackwell	Barbara.piddington@hants.gov.uk Mark.blackwell@hants.gov.uk 01962 876364
Chair of governors	Steve Wood	adminoffice@stokeparkjun.hants.sch.uk

1. Scope and definitions

This addendum applies during the period of school closure (closed to all but children of critical workers and vulnerable children) due to COVID-19, and reflects updated advice from local safeguarding partners and 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

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

· have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:

- children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
- adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
- those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
- those living in temporary accommodation
- those who are young carers
- those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
- care leavers
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

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 don't enter the school workforce 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 or deputy DSL on site wherever possible. Details of all important contacts are listed in the 'Important contacts' section at the start of this addendum. The weekly staffing rota lists which staff member will be on site each day. If staff members overseeing each bubble are approached by pupils with concerns, they will alert the DSL via CPOMs. If pupils wish to talk directly to a DSL this can be arranged through any adult within school. The DSL will then be called for.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be in school, they can be contacted remotely by email or by staff present in the school.

School staff are aware, via the weekly staffing rota, which DSL (or deputy) on any given day, is on duty in school. All staff are aware how to contact them.

We will ensure that a DSL (or Deputy), wherever their location, know who the most vulnerable children in our school are.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for coordinating safeguarding. This will be Allison Jenkins, Headteacher. You can contact them by: 02380 612789 or by email a.jenkins@stokepark-jun.hants.sch.uk

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 3 local safeguarding partners: Hampshire County Council, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Partnership of Clinical Commissioning Groups and Hampshire Constabulary.

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

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. Continued lack of engagement in home learning and failed Pastoral checks will be flagged up and followed up by the Safeguarding team.

The exception to this is where any child we expect to attend school during the closure doesn't attend, or stops attending. In these cases we will follow up on their absence with their parents or carers, by a personal phone call and/or email. Notify their social worker, where they have one. We are using the Department for Education's daily online attendance form to keep an accurate record of who is attending school.

We will make arrangements with parents and carers to make sure we have up-to-date emergency contact details, and additional contact details where possible. All parents of key workers will be contacted regularly to ensure appropriate contact details are available.

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.

The DSL or Deputy DSL should be contacted if staff have any concerns. This should be followed up by an entry to CPOMS.

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. If staff have concerns they should alert the Headteacher. If concerns are regarding the Headteacher, they must contact the Chair of Governors.

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 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 who we have safeguarding concerns about. We will work with parents/carers to do this. These children might be, for example, children who have previously had a social worker, or who haven't met the threshold for a referral but where staff have raised concerns. We will maintain detailed information about such pupils, shared by the Safeguarding team and regularly reviewed, via our internal spreadsheet and CPOMs.

If these children will not be attending school, we will put a contact plan in place, as explained in section 10.1 below.

10. Safeguarding for children not attending school

10.1 Contact arrangements

We have contact arrangements 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 These plans set out:

- How often the school will make contact
- Which staff member(s) will make contact
- How they will make contact
- A contact log will be kept and shared between the key staff who make contact so that all parties are aware and do not duplicate work.

We have agreed these plans with children's social care where relevant, and will review them at Core meetings/ICPC/RCPC meetings as appropriate.

If we can't make contact, we will contact children's social care or the police.

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 via use of safe@stokeparkjunior.co.uk

If IT staff are unavailable, our contingency plan is to contact the DSL or Deputy DSLs who will assess the level of concern

11.2 Outside school

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

Should it be required, additional information regarding the use of livestreaming lessons and video calls will be distributed to staff and

parents.

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 as set out in section 3 of this addendum.

We will make sure children know how to report any concerns they have back to our school, and signpost them to other sources of support too.

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

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

Are aware that they should only use reputable online companies or tutors if they wish to supplement the remote teaching and resources our school provides

Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online (safe@stokeparkjunior.co.uk)

Details of online work will be sent daily (school working week), paper copies are available through the school reception. The website also has details about how to keep children safe online.

Parents have been alerted to potential online concerns they should be aware of through our school newsletter and direction communication with parents via Parent Mail.

12. Mental health

Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils. We have an additional contact for pupils via our ELSA of FEIPs member of staff, or a designated TA (this is in addition to the contact via their class teacher).

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.

The School Nursing team staff will continue to work with pupils referred to them and new referrals can continue to be made.

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. The Headteacher and Business manager will make such 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 and Annex A
- Prevent training

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

13.4 Keeping records of who's on site

We will keep a record of which staff and volunteers are on site each day, and that appropriate checks have been carried out for them. We will continue to keep our single central record up to date. We will use the single central record to log: Everyone working or volunteering in our school each day, including staff 'on loan', 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 school is provided with any relevant welfare and child protection information.

Wherever possible, our DSL (or deputy) and/or INCo 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 INCO 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 3 local safeguarding partners, the LA or DfE is updated, and as a minimum every 3-4 weeks by Helen Cox - DSL. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

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