



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY ADDENDUM IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Based on DfE guidance 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers' March 2020:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

And **Safeguarding and Remote Education during coronavirus (COVID-19) April 2020**

This addendum is reviewed following any updates to national and local guidance and procedures and reshared as required.

1. Context

- Since March 2020 at various times during the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, parents have been asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, as part of the response to coronavirus (COVID-19). Schools and childcare providers have been asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. At the moment all schools are expected to be fully open to all pupils.
- If the school has to go back into lockdown either by a government directive or a local Public Health Team's request then the way the school would operate in response to coronavirus would be fundamentally different, however, our safeguarding principles in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) 2023, remain the same:
 - the best interests of children will always come first
 - if anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
 - a DSL or deputy DSL is available

- unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online
- This addendum of the School's Child Protection policy contains details of any amendments to our existing safeguarding arrangements.

2. Key School Contacts

	Name	Email	Phone Number
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) & Head teacher	Claire Murdoch	head@maplewalkschool.co.uk	02089633890
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Gill Sinclair	gill.sinclair@maplewalkschool.co.uk	02089633890
EYFS Safeguarding Lead	Ambika Curbishley	Ambika.curbishley@maplewalkschool.co.uk	02089633890
Board Level Lead & CEO	Deborah Livsey	deborah.livsey@newmodelschool.co.uk	020 8965 7374

3. Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

- The DSL will be present on-site during school hours however in their absence, a named DDSL will be available to be contacted via email.
- All staff on-site will have access to a trained DSL (or deputy) and know on any given day who that person is, and how they can contact them.
 - Up to date details of the DSL/Deputy DSLs will be visible to staff and children.
- The DSL/Deputy DSL's will continue to engage with any social workers or family support workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings as necessary, which can be done remotely.

4. Vulnerable children

- Ensuring that vulnerable children remain protected is a top priority for the School

- Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker or family support worker and those children with education, health and care (EHC) plans. Please see DfE guidance for further information on vulnerable children.
- There is an expectation that children with a social or support worker will attend school, unless in consultation with the child's social or support worker and family it is agreed this is not in the best interests of the child. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, professionals will talk through these worries with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.
- Children with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents and a decision will be made about whether they should continue to attend school.
- If vulnerable children are not attending school, we will regularly keep in contact by telephone with them.
- The School will continue to work with those professionals involved with children and share relevant information with them. This is especially important during any COVID-19 period.
 - This will include information about attendance and any welfare concerns.
 - If there is a safeguarding concern, this will be shared with the relevant professional as
- The School will encourage our vulnerable children to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

5. Attendance monitoring

- Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.
- In all circumstances where a vulnerable child/children does not take up their place, or discontinues, the School will notify their social or support worker and follow up with the family/carers
- The School will also follow up with families/carers that have arranged a place for their child/children, namely keyworkers and do not attend.
 - Staff will continue to work with and support children' social workers to help protect vulnerable children.
- The School will complete the government daily online attendance form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending

school.

6. Reporting concerns

- All staff will continue to look out for any signs that indicate a child may be at risk, both on and off site, including online.
 - If a member of staff has any safeguarding concerns about a child, this will be reported to the DSL as soon as possible.
 - If the concern is urgent, the member of staff will speak to a DSL in person or via phone/video call if they are not on site, immediately.
 - In the event a member of staff cannot make contact with a DSL, this will not delay them taking immediate action to safeguard a child.
 - Concerns will be recorded using existing safeguarding processes as outlined in our Child Protection Policy.
- Pupils are encouraged to report concerns to their teacher, or to a trusted adult at home.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to report concerns by contacting the DSL.
- Where staff are concerned about an adult working with pupils, they should report the concern to the Head Teacher.
 - If there are concerns about any member of staff, the LADO service will be consulted with.
 - Concerns around the Head Teacher should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer.

7. Safeguarding training and induction

- DSL training is unlikely to take place during any period of school closure due to the COVID 19 virus. For any period when COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.
 - Formal DSL refresher training will be undertaken as soon as possible. DSLs will continue to keep their knowledge up to date through other means.
- All existing staff have read KCSIE 2023 Part 1 and accessed safeguarding training.

- Staff will be made aware if any processes have changed with the sharing of this addendum and the DSL will communicate any changes to local processes directly.
- All new staff (if any) will have an induction provided via the DSL and will be provided with a copy of the Child Protection Policy and Covid-19 Addendum.

8. Safer recruitment

- It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children.
- During Covid-19 if the School recruits new staff we will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment practices.
- If volunteers are recruited the School will continue to follow the guidance in accordance with KCSIE 2023 and. Volunteers who have not had the relevant checks will not be left unsupervised with a child.
- In previous responses to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.
- The School will continue to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child in accordance with KCSIE 2023.
- The School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) where appropriate. During the period Covid-19 all referrals will be made by emailing Misconduct.teacher@education.gov.uk.

9. Single Central Register

The School will continue to update the single central record and will log details of any risk assessment carried out on volunteers

10. Supporting children in school

- The School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils
- The School will be a safe space for all children to attend. The Head Teacher will ensure that there are appropriate staff on site and that staff to pupil ratios have been considered to maximise the safety of children.

- The School will follow the current government guidance in relation to social distancing and all matters relating to public health from the respective websites.
- The School will ensure that all children who are either categorised as vulnerable or children of critical workers and are in attendance are appropriately supported.
- The School will continue to record any support provided to children in relation to safeguarding issues in accordance with its usual processes.

Child on child Abuse

- The School continues to recognise and respond to cases of Child on Child abuse by considering each incident on a case by case basis and basing any intervention on usual processes outlined within KCSIE 23.
- The School recognises that the current circumstances and the changeable nature of current Government guidance may mean that the School may need to adapt elements of the process in some cases to ensure that they are able to respond in line with Government advice when required.

Online safety

- The Schools expectations with regards to online behaviour and education when using school provided devices or internet access on site will continue to be implemented in line with existing policies. Any concerns regarding onsite online behaviour or use will be responded to in line with existing policies.
- The School will continue to provide a safe online learning environment where pupils use school provided devices on site; appropriate filtering and monitoring will continue to be implemented.
 - Pupils internet use will be supervised by staff according to their age and ability and pupils will be directed to use appropriate online resources and tools.
- Use of staff and pupil personal devices, including mobile phones, will be managed in line with our existing mobile technology policy.

11. Supporting children not in school

- The School will continue to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children that remain on the School roll

- The DSL and DDSL's will continue to identify those vulnerable children that would benefit from Early Help as identified in KCSIE 2023, provide pastoral support and consider whether they would benefit from external support also.
- There will be clear plans around how best to communicate with pupils who are identified as vulnerable.
- The School and the DSL will work closely with all relevant agencies and professionals regarding safeguarding a child who is not on site.
 - Any plans will be reviewed regularly and if concerns become significant, the DSL will consider any requests for support if considered appropriate.
- The School recognises that this is a difficult time for children who consider school as a safe place and the current situation may impact on pupils', staff and parent/carers mental health.
- The School will utilise its website and social media presence to ensure that safeguarding messages are shared with children and their families. This will include links to appropriate services and resources that are aimed at supporting them throughout this period.

Online safety away from school

- All staff will continue to look out for any signs that indicate a child may be at risk online and will report and respond to concerns in line with this Child Protection Policy addendum.
 - Where necessary, referrals will be made to LADO, children's social care and as required, the police.
- Pupils are encouraged to report concerns to a member of staff or a trusted adult at home. Where this is not possible, additional support can be accessed online via:
 - Childline: www.childline.org.uk
 - UK Safer Internet Centre's 'Report Harmful Content': <https://reportharmfulcontent.com>
 - National Crime Agency Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (NCA-CEOP): www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre
- Parents/carers are encouraged to ensure children are appropriately supervised online and that appropriate parent controls are implemented.
- All communication with pupils and parents/carers will take place using school provided or approved communication channels; for example, the school email accounts.

- The School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/UK GDPR requirements.
- Staff and pupils will engage with remote teaching and learning in line with existing behaviour principles as set out in the Schools Behaviour policy and Staff Code of Conduct
- When delivering remote learning, staff will:
 - Only use online tools that have been evaluated and agreed by the School's SMT
 - Ensure remote learning activities are planned in accordance with our curriculum policies, taking pupil needs and technology access into account.
 - Ensure parental permission has been given both for whole class activities and for small group or 1:1 sessions. For 1:1 sessions, parents will be requested to ensure that wherever possible their child is in a communal space or with the door to the room open. 1:1 sessions will be recorded to enable review by the Head Teacher if necessary. These recordings will be encrypted and held securely, recordings will be deleted after 30 days.
- If remote learning is taking place 'live' using webcams or chat facilities, staff and pupils will ensure a professional environment is maintained. This means:
 - Staff will agree online behaviour expectations with pupils at the start of lessons.
 - Staff will revisit our Acceptable Use of Technology policy with pupils as necessary.
 - All participants will wear suitable dress, use professional language, and ensure backgrounds of videos (live or pre-recorded) are neutral and appropriate.
 - For Safeguarding purposes, the Head Teacher and members of the Senior Leadership team will monitor the delivery of online Zoom sessions, through: 'attending' sessions, discussion with parents, pupils and staff and careful scrutiny of planning.
 - Staff and pupils should ensure personal information and/or, inappropriate or unsuitable personal items are not visible.
 - Where possible, other household members should not be in the background or shot; if this unavoidable, they should follow appropriate language and behaviour expectations.
 - If Live streaming, staff will mute and/or disable pupils' videos and microphones, as required.

Additional support and links

- As well as through existing school mechanisms, pupils, staff and parents/carers can access age appropriate and practical support and advice via a range of national and local services:
 - Childline: www.childline.org.uk
 - NSPCC: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/how-to-have-difficult-conversations-with-children/>

DfE Guidance

- Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers: www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers
- Vulnerable Children Guidance: www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people
- COVID-19: guidance for educational settings: www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers: www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): attendance recording for educational settings: www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings

Specific Links relating to Coronavirus for Pupils and Parents/Carers

- Childline: www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/
- Mind: www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/
- Young Minds: <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>
- Children's Commissioner:

- Children's guide to coronavirus:
www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/
- Resources for parents during coronavirus:
www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/coronavirus/resources/
- Sport England: www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout
- Place2be:
 - www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-supporting-children-who-may-be-especially-vulnerable/
 - www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-information-for-children/

Online Safety

- NCA-CEOP: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/
- Internet Matters: www.internetmatters.org/
- Childnet: www.childnet.com/blog/keeping-children-happy-and-safe-online-during-covid-19
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/working-remotely-advice-professionals-parents-posh-rhc
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/
- Parent Info: <https://parentinfo.org/>
- BBC Own it: www.bbc.com/ownit

Domestic Abuse

- Domestic Abuse Services: www.domesticabuseservices.org
- Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111 www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/supportline
- www.oasisdaservice.org/home
- National Women's Aid Domestic Abuse 24hr helpline: 0800 2000247

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