



COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Springwood Heath Primary School

Annex Date: January 2021

This addendum of the Springwood Heath Primary School Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of any amendments to our existing safeguarding arrangements during this time, until school is instructed it can safely fully open again.

Key Contacts:

	Name	Contact number & mobile phone	Email address
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Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr Ian Hunt Mrs Chris Beacall		i.hunt@springwoodheath.co.uk c.beacall@springwoodheath.co.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)	Mrs Laura Savage		l.savage@springwoodheath.co.uk
Chair of Governors	Robyn Middleton		governormiddleton@springwoodheath.co.uk
Link Governor for Safeguarding	Emma McColl		governormcoll@springwoodheath.co.uk

Context

From the 5th January 2021 schools were instructed to move to remote learning for all pupils other than those children of key/critical workers and vulnerable children. Government guidance to support schools to plan and risk assess can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

Our school's risk assessment will be updated and review on an ongoing basis.

During this time Springwood Heath will do what it reasonably achievable in order to keep all of our children safe. In most cases, the majority of our children will not physically be attending the school. It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs that a child may be at risk or in need of additional support or services. Any such concerns will be dealt with in line with our main Child Protection policy

and local safeguarding arrangements. Where appropriate, referrals will still be made to children's services and as required, the police, **without delay**.

All staff should be aware of the heightened risk to all children and specifically those who are no longer attending school on a daily basis, and should ensure they are familiar with the indicators of abuse set out within the school's main Child Protection Policy, including but not limited to, the key areas of:

- Domestic abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Criminal and sexual exploitation
- Radicalisation

Provision for children of key workers and those defined by the government as vulnerable.

The school's plans and risk assessments will consider how provision is made for children of key workers and those defined by the government as vulnerable.

The government defines vulnerable children via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

Our safeguarding/management team have identified any child that we consider to be vulnerable and have developed strategies to monitor their safety, wellbeing and welfare during this time should they not utilise their place in school.

- Phone calls (using school phone/mobile) will be made regularly (at least weekly) by our Learning mentor, Outreach Team and classroom staff where the parent/carer and child will be spoken too. All contact or lack of contact will be recorded
- If no contact has been made then the most vulnerable children will require a home visit (taking school staff safety into account) In case of self-isolation, aiming to view through a window will be appropriate.

We have the flexibility to offer a place to those children we determine to be vulnerable, particularly those who are on the edge of receiving support or assessment from children's services, those unable to access remote learning and those at risk of experiencing mental health difficulties.

Springwood Heath Primary School will continue to work with and support children's services and other agencies to help protect vulnerable children.

Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)/Deputy Safeguarding Lead

We will ensure wherever possible there is always a trained DSL or deputy available on site. All safeguarding concerns should be **reported verbally and in writing without delay** to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. It is

recognised however that this may not be possible and where this is the case, we will consider the following option:

- A trained DSL or deputy is available to be contacted via phone, email or video call when working from home

If it is not possible to have a trained DSL or deputy on site, at Springwood Heath we will ensure that there is a senior leader who takes responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site. This senior leader can also take advice from School Improvement Liverpool's School Improvement Officers for Safeguarding:

safeguarding@si.liverpool.gov.uk

Phil Cooper 07921 942091*

Nicola Noon 07793 660567*

***All personal information will be taken out prior to making document publicly available**

All staff should follow the procedures set out in the main safeguarding/Child Protection policy for contacting and reporting concerns to the DSL and/or deputy.

The safeguarding team will continue to engage with Social Workers and attend and contribute to all multi-agency meetings as determined by the local procedures for remote meetings. We will identify a secure and confidential space in school where virtual attendance at meetings can take place without interruption.

Safeguarding supervision for the safeguarding team will continue to take place in order to review actions and decisions made, and support emotional wellbeing. We will consider how this is managed should staff be required to work remotely, or on a rotational basis, to ensure all staff are able to participate in and have access to appropriate supervision.

Safeguarding procedures

Our school will continue to follow our child protection, managing allegations policies and staff code of conduct. We will continue to follow normal [Local Safeguarding Children Board Procedures](#). For children who continue to attend the school site, staff responsible for those children are aware of children with specific safeguarding or health needs or disabilities. All medicines are stored and administered safely.

All staff know how to contact the on-site Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputy and First Aiders/School Nurses. There are always appropriately trained personnel on site.

Where staff in school have a concern about a child, they will continue to follow the process outlined in our main Safeguarding/Child Protection policy. This includes making a report via the agreed methods e.g. CPOMS, emails. Staff are reminded of the need to report any safeguarding concern immediately **both verbally and in writing, and without delay** to the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. The revised statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2020) emphasises the need to report **any safeguarding concerns related to a child's mental health** to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

If any member of staff believes a child is at risk of harm then the Designated Safeguarding Lead should ring Liverpool Careline on 0151 233 3700 (or the children's services department of the local authority where the child lives), **without delay**. If the Designated Safeguarding

Lead is *unavailable* then **any** member of staff should ensure Liverpool Careline is contacted without delay.

If a child is in immediate/imminent danger then staff should ring the police.

We will continue to gain the voice of the child to appropriately support assessment of the child's level of need.

Concerns regarding the conduct of any adult working on site (**staff member, supply staff, other third-party staff**) will continue to be dealt with in line with the school's managing allegations policy and local safeguarding children partnership procedures.

Attendance monitoring

All staff should remain vigilant to poor or erratic attendance being an indicator of safeguarding concerns particularly neglect or child exploitation. School Improvement Liverpool has provided additional guidance and escalation processes for monitoring the attendance of vulnerable students including when children suddenly stop attending and cannot be contacted. In these circumstances the school will act, without delay, to establish the welfare of a child. School staff may conduct a door step visit to a child's home (is this Laura? If so how can she when she is not on school premises) following all social distancing guidance. This can provide opportunity to speak to a child and understand their needs and wishes whilst maintaining social distancing. Attendance issues will be discussed during safeguarding supervision meetings.

Springwood Heath staff will continue to monitor all vulnerable children by contacting them regularly and making home visits as required, if the family do not take up the offer of a vulnerable child place or the child stops attending.

During the Covid 19 period school staff may visit a child's home without entering it. This will provide opportunity to speak to a child whilst maintain social distancing and ensuring that the parent/carer and child are all safe.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, we will work with their social worker in order to overcome any barriers and ensure the child remains safe and well. 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 increased risk.

Shielding advice is currently in place, therefore all children identified as clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school.

Safer Recruitment

It continues to be essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter Springwood Heath Primary School or gain access to children.

The government introduced temporary changes to support the ID checking during the first national lockdown:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines>

It is assumed these temporary changes may be reintroduced. In all cases all the DfE pre-employment checks set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education will need to have been completed including ensuring all original documents have been physically seen prior to the individual commencing work.

During this present Lockdown we have made a school decision to not use volunteers within school.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the pandemic, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that our school is aware, on any given day, which staff and outside professionals will be in the school and that appropriate checks have been carried out. As such, we will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Mental Health

It is acknowledged that the current circumstances surrounding lockdown and COVID-19 are particularly stressful and may cause increased anxieties and stress for all members of our school community. When children and staff are away from their usual routine and social contact, this can become a negative and stressful experience. At Springwood Heath we will ensure there is appropriate support available for the whole school community at this time. Support can include existing provision in the school, or from specialist staff or support services. Where children of key workers and vulnerable children continue to attend the setting, appropriate support will be offered to them whilst on site.

All staff should be able to recognise behaviours in children that might suggest they are experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken following the school's child protection policy.

The school community can also be signposted to the government's advice on supporting children and young people's mental health during the COVID-19 outbreak, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing?priority-taxon=b350e61d-1db9-4cc2-bb44-fab02882ac25>

There are also a range of resources provided by the Liverpool Learning Partnership, available here:

<https://www.liverpoollearningpartnership.com/resources-to-help-during-social-distancing-and-self-isolation/>
https://padlet.com/jholder_llp/goingbacktoschool

As a school we are also aware of the mental health of our pupils and parents/carers when we set expectations regarding pupil's work when they are at home.

Online safety

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Where the site remains open for key worker and vulnerable children, Springwood Heath will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children when they are online on the school's IT systems or recommended resources.

Measures will be put in place to ensure safe IT arrangements and we will consider what the contingency arrangements are if the named IT staff become unavailable.

To support schools in delivering online remote learning, the DfE have produced safeguarding guidance for remote education, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The [UK Council for Internet Safety provides information to help governing boards and proprietors assure themselves](#) that any new arrangements continue to effectively safeguard children online.

The [UK Safer Internet Centre's professional online safety helpline](#) also provides support for the children's workforce with any online safety issues they face

In the consideration of online safety the DfE have revised Annex C of Keeping Children safe in Education which now provides guidance in respect of education at home: where children are being asked to learn online at home the department has provided advice to support schools and colleges do so safely: ['Safeguarding in schools colleges and other providers'](#) and ['Safeguarding and remote education'](#)

The school will also take account of the following guidance:

Gov.uk

[Teaching Online Safety in Schools](#)

[Advice for teachers and leaders on remote education during Covid-19](#)

[Get help with technology for remote education during coronavirus](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

LGfL

<https://coronavirus.lgfl.net/safeguarding>

SWGfL

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/safe-remote-learning/>

[SWGfL – Safeguarding and privacy online](#)

[SWGfL guidance for schools re-opening](#)

UK Safer Internet Centre

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/working-remotely-advice-professionals-parents-posh-rhc>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/safe-remote-learning-hub>

NSPCC

[NSPCC- Netware guidance around Zoom and other Apps](#)

[NSPCC: Online safety during the coronavirus](#)

[NSPCC: Undertaking remote teaching safely](#)

Where children are not physically attending school, we will consider the safety of our children when they are asked to work online. The starting point for online teaching remains the same as the principles set out in our school's staff code of conduct. This policy includes acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships and communication including the use of social media. This policy applies equally to any existing or new online and distance learning arrangements which have been introduced. The principles set out in the [guidance](#)

[for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings published by the Safer Recruitment Consortium](#) alongside with the [COVID addendum](#) to this guidance should be adhered to by all staff.

Any online learning tools or systems recommended for use by Springwood Heath Primary, are be in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Our communication with parents will reinforce the importance of children being safe online. Families will be made aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and who their child is going to be interacting with online, including members of staff from our school.

We acknowledge that some parents and carers may choose to supplement the school's online offer with support from online companies and in some cases, individual tutors. We will raise awareness with parents the importance of only accessing online support from a reputable organisation or individual who can provide evidence that they are a safe organisation and can be trusted to have access to children. We will signpost parents on our school website to support such as [Internet matters](#), [London Grid for Learning](#), [Net-aware](#), [Parent info](#), [Thinkuknow](#) and the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#).

Operation Encompass

If a child, subject to an Operation Encompass notification, is not attending our school and is being cared for at home, we will risk assess the situation taking into consideration the history of the child and family. This information will be used in order to determine our response to each individual case. In all situations we would always aim to speak to the child.

If school receive a notification relating to a child who does not attend our setting, we will notify safeguarding.referrals@merseyside.police.uk.

Families at risk of Domestic Abuse can be signposted to the following resources:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help>

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/covid-19-resource-hub/>

<http://thehideout.org.uk/>

<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

<https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Safety%20planning%20guide,%20victims%20and%20survivors,%20COVID-19.pdf>

Peer on peer abuse

At Springwood Heath Primary we recognise that during the Covid 19 period and given the potential for further school closures or partial closures a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where we receive a report of peer on peer abuse, we will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within our main Safeguarding/Child Protection policy. We will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions will be recorded using the agreed methods and appropriate referrals made.

Our school will refer to the guidance detailed below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people>

Monitoring

We will develop arrangements to ensure all staff are aware and have understood any additional safeguarding guidance set out in this addendum. This appendix and the school's safeguarding arrangements will be kept under ongoing review.