

## **Annex 1**

**This is an addition to the Safeguarding Policy as a response to School Closures.**

**We will be keeping this under review as and when the DfE guidance is changed.**

# **COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Standens Barn Primary School**



**School Name: Standens Barn Primary School**

**Date: 30/03/2020**

**Date shared with staff: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

## **1. Context**

From 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were 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.

The priority of this amendment is to ensure the safety of children at our school while recognizing that the safest place for children is to be at home.

This addendum of the Standens Barn Primary School Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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## Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
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Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Simon Blight Sarah Drummond	01604 780646	<a href="mailto:Simon.blight@standensbarn.org.uk">Simon.blight@standensbarn.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Sarah.Drummond@standensbarn.org.uk">Sarah.Drummond@standensbarn.org.uk</a>
Headteacher	Simon Blight	01604 780646	<a href="mailto:Simon.blight@standensbarn.org.uk">Simon.blight@standensbarn.org.uk</a>
Chair of Governors	Sheila Bryan	01604 413157	<a href="mailto:Bryans1@sky.com">Bryans1@sky.com</a>
InMat Safeguarding lead	Gaynor Crute	01604 434600	<a href="mailto:gaynor.crute@inmat.org.uk">gaynor.crute@inmat.org.uk</a>
Trustee Safeguarding Lead	Linda Brooks	01604 434600	<a href="mailto:Linda.brooks@inmat.org.uk">Linda.brooks@inmat.org.uk</a>

Also see the newly released contact sheet from the LA released 30/3/2020.

## Vulnerable children

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

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order 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. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself is not a determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Standens Barn Primary will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be: Mrs A James.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, then a DSL from the school or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Where is it essential for a vulnerable child to attend school and we cannot open we will work with the carer, Social Worker and the LA to offer an alternative placement.

We will create a system that allows us to contact vulnerable children who are at home. This will operate within the current guidelines from the Government on managing Covid -19. This means that we will see children at their home once a week, contact the families by telephone once a week (minimum, more dependent on circumstances) and/or by email via Arbor system as and when necessary.

### **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.

We will work with social workers and will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – we will then follow up on any pupil that we were expecting to attend, who does not. We will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

### **HOW WILL THIS LOOK IN YOUR SCHOOL?**

To support the above, the DSLs will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, we will notify their social worker.

All current procedures for reporting Safeguarding will continue to be followed. The DSLs all have access to the system from school and at home.

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via

phone or via email - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site:

- This will include liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as/if required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

It is important that all school staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, staff on site will be made aware of that person is and how to speak to them.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

### **Reporting a concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, there is **no change to our procedure** as DSLs can access the concerns off site.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access My Concern from home, they should email/telephone or use Google Hangouts (no other on line video system must be used) the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher. This will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, then they must inform the Headteacher immediately in person or via phone or email.

Concerns around the Headteacher should continue to be directed to the Chair of Governors: Sheila Bryan

The Multi-Academy Trust will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

## **Safeguarding Training and induction**

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

For the period 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.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Standens Barn Primary, 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 and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

For movement within the Trust, schools should seek assurance from the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) HR Manager that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

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

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, we will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE).

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.

Where we are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Standens Barn will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

Standens Barn will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing [Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk)

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, we will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

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

We will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

### **Children and online safety away from school and college**

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 Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in our code of conduct.

We will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s, groups only
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms.
- The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms provided by our school.
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

We have setup dedicated email addresses for each year group for parents to use if they need to get in touch with teaching staff. These must be used as the key line of communication into and out of school.

Any e-safety concerns that you become aware of must be recorded in My Concern.

### **Supporting children not in school**

Standens Barn is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person. This will continue to be logged in My Concern.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

The DSL and Social Worker will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

We recognise that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and

their parents/carers. Teachers need to be aware of this, in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

We will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

### **Mental Health**

We recognise that this is an extraordinary time and that learning cannot take place in the same way at school. We also recognise that parents will be juggling their own work with helping children to learn and that the expectations cannot be the same as in school.

To support children with their learning we will be providing activities for children to carry out at home, but this will not any different from the systems that we already have in place. We will also signpost parents to activities throughout this time.

We will be encouraging parents to find a successful balance that works for them and will support where necessary and this may include making a phone call home if needed.

### **Supporting children in school**

Standens Barn:

- is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.
- will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. Senior Leaders will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.
- 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 on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.
- will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.
- Will, if it, has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – will discuss them immediately with the trust.

### **Peer on Peer Abuse**

We recognise that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

The school 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 must be recorded on My Concern and appropriate referrals made.