



WHITECROSS NURSERY SCHOOL

**'We are committed to provide a nurturing stimulating environment
which empowers each child to realise their potential'**

Covid 19 addendum to safeguarding policy

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Approved by C FitzPatrick (DDSL)

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Closure arrangements

From 20th March 2020 parents/carers 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 needed to attend. Schools and all childcare providers were also asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable - as well as those children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

As of 1st June 2020 (if key government conditions are met) schools are being asked to open to other families as part of a phased reopening of all schools.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 still remains the key document for safeguarding children and this document supports KCSIE for the current unprecedented events.

This addendum of Whitecross Nursery School Safeguarding and Child Protection policy sets out changes to our normal child protection/safeguarding policy in light of the Department for Education's guidance collection for Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for schools and other educational settings, and specifically Coronavirus: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers.

1. Key Contacts (including training for DSL and DDSL)
2. Plans in Place (including for vulnerable children) whilst school is closed to majority
3. Attendance monitoring
4. Reporting a Concern
5. Online safety and security
6. Supporting children not in school

7. Supporting children in school
8. Mental Health and well-being
9. Domestic Violence
10. Communication of this document to staff
11. Additional Changes

Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Child protection/safeguarding
- Staff code of conduct
- Health and safety
- Infection Control
- Behaviour management
- First Aid

1. Key Contacts

Designated safeguarding Lead – Jayne Staves jstaves@whitecross.derby.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Claire FitzPatrick head@whitecross.derby.sch.uk
Mental Health Champion – James Dunicliffe – jdunicliffe@whitecross.derby.sch.uk

The school acknowledges that opportunities for DSL (face to face) training is very unlikely to take place during this period.

As outlined in the DFE guidance Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers 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.

We aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

The DSL will report back to the governing board on all relevant safeguarding concerns experienced during partial school closure.

2. Plans in Place whilst school is closed to the majority of children

In light of the current crisis, the school has additional measures in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its pupils.

We will ensure there is a consistent approach to safeguarding children throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

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.

We are not currently recruiting, but any staff or volunteers new to the school will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction as with normal procedure.

The School will continue to keep the single central record up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

The DSL or Deputy DSL will continue to engage with social workers and VSH, attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely, and update and manage access to child protection files, where necessary.

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 risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their children to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Whitecross Nursery School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Senior leaders know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those who don't meet the Department for Education's definition of 'vulnerable' but where the school has concerns.

We will carry out regular 'safe and well' phone calls to families.

We will provide parents with clear communication channels so they can share any concerns they have, including reports of peer-on-peer abuse. 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 the Child Protection Policy.

3. Attendance Monitoring

Whitecross Nursery School will record and investigate any absences where it expected a child to attend school and they did not or where parents have arranged care for their child who subsequently did not attend.

Staff attendance will be monitored daily when school is open during this period of time.

4. Reporting a Concern

It is imperative that during this period of uncertainty that all staff ensure that any concerns are acted on as quickly as possible. For the most part, reporting procedures will remain as they are and staff should continue to follow the process outlined in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Where staff are concerned about a member of staff working with the children in the school, they should report this immediately to the Headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be made to the Chair of Governors.

5. Online safety and security

The school will collaborate with parents and carers to ensure they are aware of the potential risks to children online and to reinforce the importance of online safety.

Updated Government Advice is available for Parents/carers;
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers> , section 6.3.

In school

We will continue to have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place in school.

Outside school

Our staff won't interact directly with children online.

6. Supporting children not in school

Whitecross Nursery School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children.

The school recognises that education is a protective factor for children and that the current circumstances can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at the school are aware of this when making suggestions for learning through play at home (ideas which are sent out weekly via Tucasi).

Families will be contacted by a member of staff regularly (via email or telephone) to check in and offer advice and information to support home learning.

Where the DSL has identified a family who would normally receive additional support at school, a communication plan is in place to contact the family and provide remote support and guidance if necessary.

The school will share safeguarding information on its website.

7. Supporting children in school

The school will continue to be a safe space for children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to learner ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

The school 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.

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

8. Mental Health and well-being

We are aware that this current situation can bring many anxieties for children, parents and staff. Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of families and staff.

Where staff are concerned for their own or a family's mental health they should seek support as appropriate. A room has been made available in school for staff to take some time to sit quietly or talk to the head teacher or another colleague.

Staff wishing to learn more about mental health and mental health of young people, can refer to the Government Guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>

Staff are fully aware of the importance of the children's well-being and will be focusing on this in their interactions with them.

Families will be provided with different resources they can access to help them cope with their mental health, including ChildLine and other online services. Face-to-face support will only be provided where necessary or unavoidable.

8. Domestic Violence

The current Covid 19 measures being taken are likely to increase the stress on family life and it is expected that domestic abuse incidents are likely to rise. The school will continue to receive domestic abuse notifications via the Stopping Domestic Abuse Together (SDAT) initiative as will children's social care. Notifications will continue to be recorded in the children's safeguarding file.

As with any concern about a child the school will take steps to ensure the child is safe. In all cases the school will review what we know about the child and their family. If the child is expected to attend school the usual checks should be made on their welfare.

- What is known about the child when they arrived (or not) at school today?
- Who in the school needs to be informed?
- What 'checks' need to be carried out and how best can these be achieved?
- How are they presenting physically and emotionally? Are there any changes in their behaviour?

When a child is not at expected to be at school there should be consideration about how best the school can seek assurance on their welfare and what checks can be made. **In all cases the school will make general enquires with the child about how they are. The domestic abuse notification should not be referred to unless it is directly mentioned by the child or where the parent raises the issue.**

During 'check-ins', it is important to be able to speak to the child directly. Think about questions you could ask that will help you see what life's like for them. Ask open-ended questions like, "tell me about your day", "what are some good things that have happened today", "tell me about some sad things that have happened this week" and "what's life at home like". It's okay to ask similar questions - it can sometimes take time for a child to open up about what's happening. The questions need to be age appropriate and relevant to the child's ability. Give children and young people the opportunity to talk about what's going on for them. It may take time for them to feel comfortable talking over the phone, so staff may need to keep in touch more regularly. Talking about things like what they're watching, reading or playing, or what they've had for dinner, may help them feel more comfortable. It's also important to support parents and carers. Ask them about how they're coping and any worries and concerns they have. Let them know you're there to support them if they need help. Certain children are more vulnerable to domestic abuse, e.g. SEND & disabled children, so it's important to make a greater effort to keep in touch.

Government guidance(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-and-domestic-abuse>) and NSPCC guidance <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/coronavirus-abuse-neglect-vulnerable-children/> have been produced in support of families and professionals at this time and how various agencies are ensuring that relevant support services remain open during this challenging time.

If the DSL/deputy DSL identifies any child protection concerns they will refer to children's social care.

Children's Social Care will also review the incident and will liaise with the school where there are child protection concerns about the safety of the child.

9. Communication of this document to staff

Senior Leaders will ensure that this document has been circulated to all staff as appropriate.

10. Additional changes

The DSL is responsible for continually monitoring DfE updates and updating this appendix in line with any government changes and guidance from the local safeguarding partners. Any changes to this appendix will be communicated to all staff, parents and relevant stakeholders.

Follow this link for the latest update.

<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>