

Updated information on safeguarding procedures and protocols at Nook Lane Junior School

COVID-19 addendum to the Child Protection Policy

Advice taken from:

www.gov.uk – Supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak (19.4.20)

www.gov.uk – Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers (27.3.20)

Advice for the education sector is being updated daily.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>)

DfE coronavirus helpline 0 0800 046 8687 open 8am - 6pm weekdays and 10am - 4pm at the weekend.

What remains the same and any changes to the school's child protection/safeguarding policies

'Keeping Children Safe in Education' is the statutory guidance that school continues to have regard to as per their legislative duty.

Our safeguarding principles remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in school has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately.
- the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Safeguarding Lead should always be available or contactable
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/children should continue to be protected when or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

Actions taken by school:

- The school is acting upon advice from the DfE – see above.
- Updating all staff of any changes to the current COVID-19 situation and safeguarding, including sending staff a copy of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' part 1 to revisit and read.
- Updating contact details for the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy, the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub for all staff working in school to ensure all relevant people and agencies are contactable. The weekly staff timetable has been shared with all staff members to ensure that everyone is aware when the DSL/Deputy DSL are in school or working from home. The DSL and Deputy DSL
- the school continues to work closely with agencies – social workers as appropriate, virtual school head (VSH) for looked after and previously looked after children, the Multi Agency Support Team (MAST). The school has a named link person at MAST and is in weekly contact with them by email and phone.

- the school is in regular contact with MAST workers currently support families in school. Contact with any supporting agency is logged and any actions taken are shared with relevant members if staff.
- reports of peer on peer abuse should be supported – see part 5 of the KCSIE document
- if staff have concerns about another member of staff, school will continue to follow the principles in part 4 of KCSIE and protocol from the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub policies.
- the school has arrangements for supporting children that they are concerned about who do not meet the ‘vulnerable’ definition. School staff are contacting families of children with My Plans and SEN Support Plans regularly and responding to emails from families using the class email system, any concerns are shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy.
- the school’s Online Safety Lead has shared information online regarding keeping children safe, on the school’s website. School continues to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place when children are online in school. The school receives technical support from a technician who is able to work both remotely and in school to offer support.

The UK Council for Internet Safety provides information to support governing bodies assure themselves that new arrangements continue to effectively safeguard children online.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-in-schools-and-colleges-questions-from-the-governing-board>

The UK Safer Internet centre’s professional online safety helpline also provides support for the children’s workforce with any online safety issues.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline/professionals-online-safety-helpline>

- as part of staff continued professional development, website links will be made available to all staff to revisit safeguarding areas and themes including an e-learning enhanced induction course.
- children considered ‘vulnerable’ will continue to be a priority in school and advice from Supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak (19.4.20) followed.
- attendance – school is liaising closely with families of key workers, families of children with an Education Health Care Plan or a child with a social worker, regarding attendance at school. Weekly registers of attendance at the school’s breakfast club, after school club are shared with staff as are the weekly attendance sheets for children accessing a school day. If children from the registers do not attend school, the school will contact families and follow this up. The school has ensured that all emergency contact details are up to date for families. The school now uses the daily online attendance form to keep a record of the children of critical workers/key workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. This allows for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allows schools to provide accurate, up to date data to the DfE on the number of children taking up places.
- staff training – all staff have received induction training face to face with the school’s DSL and received a copy of the keeping Children Safe in Education part 1 document. If new members of staff enter the school during school closure they will be provided with a safeguarding induction, an up to date Child protection policy and part 1 of KCSIE.
- if and when the school staff and children attending school during COVID-19 move to another school setting, the receiving school should judge, on a case by case basis, the level of safeguarding induction required. Our staff will receive a copy of the receiving school’s Child Protection policy and conformation of DSL/Deputy DSL contact arrangements.
- If any looked after children (LAC) attend a different school setting during COVID-19, the LAC lead teacher will manage this. The receiving school should be made aware of why the child is vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them. The receiving school should have access to a vulnerable child’s Education health Care Plan, Child in Need plan, Child Protection plan, or for

looked after children, their personal education plan (PEP) and know who the child's social worker is. The school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator may also share supportive information with the receiving school about the child's learning profile. While school has regard to data protection and GDPR, we do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. See paragraphs 76-83 of KCSIE.

- school will continue to follow the safer recruitment processes if new staff are recruited during school closure/COVID-19. 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.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-standard-and-enhanced-id-checking-guidelines>.

There is no expectation that staff who already have an appropriate DBS check, should have a new check if working temporarily in another setting during COVID-19. The receiving school will risk assess as they would for a volunteer and seek assurance from the current employer rather than requiring new checks.

- all members of staff are aware of who is working in school on any given day or week during school closure. School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148-156 in KCSIE. The school can log everyone who will be working in school on any given day, including staff from other schools who may be supporting.
- school will continue to be sensitive to and supportive of the mental health and well-being of our families. This will be considered in the setting of home learning tasks and the expectations that this may bring.
- school will support the needs of children of key workers who are attending school, as well as the needs of children with Education Health Care Plans. Staff will continue to receive updates as to how to support families with emotional health and well-being needs and information for families will be shared on the school's website. School is accessing advice and guidance from Learn Sheffield, Healthy Minds and MAST (Multi Agency Support Team) and sharing advice via the school website. School are also in regular contact with families who need additional support.
- school continue to receive advice and support regarding providing education remotely during school closure/COVID-19. Staff have been reminded of the starting point for online teaching, employing the same principles as set out in the school's behaviour policy/code of conduct. This includes acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships and communication including the use of social media. Staff are in regular contact with families and will reinforce the importance of children being safe online, including the use of sites they will be asked to access for their learning. School may emphasise the importance of securing online support from reputable organisations.

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To be reviewed as new information from the DfE is shared with school.