



St Barnabas CE Primary School

Child Protection During Covid-19: Safeguarding Policy Annex

*Preparing for a positive future,
achieved through faith*

Policy Annex Written:	September 2020
Date reviewed and agreed by Governors:	December 2020
Date of next review:	To be reviewed weekly and amended in the light of updated guidance from the DfE through the period of school closure
Headteacher:	Miss J Hodgkinson
Chair of Governors:	Dr C Kressel

Context

The way schools and colleges will need to operate in response to a disruption to the education of an individual, group, class or larger number of pupils as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual

In the event of a further lockdown, schools will be asked to provide care for children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This annex to our Child Protection policy sets out details of our safeguarding arrangements in the event of any disruption for:

- Version control and dissemination
- Safeguarding priority

- Current school position
- Roles and responsibilities

- Vulnerable children
- Increased vulnerability or risk

- Attendance
- Reporting concerns about children and staff

- Safeguarding training and induction
- Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

- Peer on peer abuse
- Online safety in school

- Online safety away from school
- Support for children not at school

- New children at the school
- Supporting parents with online safety

- Peer on peer abuse

Version control and dissemination

This is version 2.0 of this annex. It will be reviewed by our designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or a deputy DSL on a weekly basis as circumstances continue to evolve or following updated Department for Education advice or guidance. It is available on the school website here www.stbarnabaceprimaryschool.co.uk and is made available to staff by email.

We will ensure that on any given day all staff and volunteers in attendance will be aware of who the DSL and deputy DSLs are and how staff and volunteers can to speak to them.

Safeguarding priority

During these challenging times the safeguarding of all children at our school – whether they are currently at home or in attendance – continues to be our priority. The following fundamental safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children continue to come first
- if anyone in our school has a safeguarding concern, they will act immediately
- a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy DSL will always be available
- no unsuitable people will be allowed to gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online.

All staff and volunteers attending on site from outside our school will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of safeguarding risks and know how to act if they have concerns.

Roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for safeguarding in our school remain in line with our Child Protection Policy.

If possible, our DSL and at least one deputy DSL will be available on site during the school day. Where this is not possible, we will:

- have a trained DSL or deputy DSL available by phone and/or online video; or
- ensure we have access to a trained DSL or deputy DSL from another school or college by phone and/or online video.

Where our DSL or a deputy DSL cannot be on site, then in addition to one of the above options we will also ensure a senior leader from the school takes responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) for child protection is: Jane Hodgkinson

Contact details: email: stbarnabas_primary_head@warrington.gov.uk tel: 01925 633606

The deputy designated leads are: Jayne Fisher

Contact details: email: senco@stbarnabascewarrington.co.uk tel: 01925 633606

Lisa Woods

Contact details: email: stbarnabaseyfsleader@stbarnabascewarrington.co.uk tel: 01925 633606

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 or health 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.

Provision for vulnerable children in the event of a disruption to education

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend school, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. Where a parent does not want their child to attend school, and their child is considered vulnerable, we will discuss this with the social worker and explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

In the event of vulnerable children needing to self-isolate, contact will be made with the family at least twice a week by the Safeguarding Team.

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 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.

We will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend school, including remotely if needed.

Senior leaders in our school, especially the DSL (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are, and they have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

We will continue to work with children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

Increased vulnerability or risk

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Staff will be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Where we are providing for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Our staff and volunteers will be aware of the mental health of children and their parents and carers and will contact the DSL or a deputy if they have any concerns.

Attendance

The school will follow the latest guidance on recording, reporting and monitoring attendance. This is subject to change due to COVID-19.

Reporting concerns about children or staff

The importance of all staff and volunteers acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns remains. Staff and volunteers will continue to follow our Child Protection procedures

https://www.stbarnabasceprimary.co.uk/serve_file/483133 and advise the DSL of any concerns they have about any child, including those who are not attending school.

The varied arrangements in place as a result of the COVID-19 measures do not reduce the risks that children may face from staff or volunteers. As such, it remains extremely important that any allegations of abuse made against staff or volunteers attending our school are dealt with thoroughly and efficiently and in accordance with our Allegations Against Staff Policy https://www.stbarnabasceprimary.co.uk/serve_file/483132

All staff in school on any day will be issued with Safeguarding advice and the systems of reporting. Any Safeguarding concerns that are raised will be passed to the DSL by CPOMS, phone or email. The DSL will log the information onto CPOMS for any staff who do not have access and will assume responsibility for that case. (see also Safeguarding Advice for Staff at St Barnabas CE Primary School)

Reporting a concern about staff

Any concerns should be raised with the member of leadership on site. The matter then will be passed to the appropriate DSL. **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, they should notify the senior leader on site. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the headteacher. Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors, Dr Carsten Kressel. carsten@kressel.co.uk

Staff training

For the duration of the COVID-19 measures, if our DSL and deputy DSLs are unlikely to receive their refresher training. In line with government guidance, our trained DSLs and deputy DSLs will be classed as trained even if they cannot receive this training.

All current school staff will continue to receive current safeguarding training and read Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education. When new staff are recruited or volunteers join us, they will receive a safeguarding induction in accordance with our Child Protection Policy.

In the event of any further disruption to education, staff will be expected to complete online safeguarding training as directed by the Safeguarding Team.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter St Barnabas CE Primary School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. This will be delivered by the Headteacher or the DSL. All staff entering school on any day will be issued with Key Safeguarding Advice and the routes for referral on that day.

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 and, that in the opinion of that setting, nothing resulted from those checks that provided any caused for concern
- there are no safeguarding investigations into the conduct of that individual
- the individual remains suitable to work with children.

For movement across schools with Warrington then assurance of the member of staff's suitability to work with children will be sought from Warrington Borough Council HR department.

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 our Safer Recruitment policy

https://www.stbarnabasceprimary.co.uk/serve_file/483122

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.

For volunteers we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to engage in regulated activity.

It is essential from a safeguarding perspective that we are aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers are on our school site and that the appropriate checks have been carried out on those individuals. We will continue to maintain our single central record (SCR) during these measures to ensure we have this awareness.

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise that children can abuse their peers and our staff are clear about the school's policy and procedures regarding peer on peer abuse. All peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. We also recognise that abuse can still occur during a school closure or partial closure and between those children who do attend the school site during these measures.

Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse and will follow the process set out in our Child Protection Policy.

Online safety in School

St Barnabas CE Primary School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

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

Online safety away from School

It is likely that children will be using the internet and engaging with social media far more during this time. Our staff are aware of the signs of cyberbullying and other online risks and our filtering and monitoring software remains in use during this time to safeguard and support children.

Our staff will follow the process for online safety set out in our Child Protection Policy and Mobile Technology and Social Media Policy.

Staff who interact with children online will continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. If a staff member is concerned about a child, that staff member will follow the approach set out in this annex and report that concern to the DSL or to a deputy DSL.

Support for Children not at school

St Barnabas CE Primary School prioritises pupil wellbeing and the need to support all of its pupils. During any disruption to education, lessons will be set on line and routine contact with key staff will be put in place along with advice and guidance for all pupils and families as to where they can find support both in school, on line and in the local area.

The school also recognises the need to support pupils whom they believe to be living in vulnerable circumstances. Robust mechanisms are in place to support pupils and their families who fall into this category. Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive additional pastoral support in school, they will ensure that a communication plan is in place to support that child. Details of that plan will be recorded in the safeguarding file for that child. It will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains current during these measures.

New children at the school

Children may join our school from other settings. When they do, we will seek from those settings the relevant welfare and child protection information. This is relevant for all children that join us, but it will be especially important where children are vulnerable.

For vulnerable children we will ensure we understand the reasons for the vulnerability and any arrangements in place to support them. As a minimum we will seek access to that child's EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or, for looked-after children, their personal education plan and know who the child's social worker (and, for looked-after children, who the responsible VSH is).

Ideally this will happen before a child arrives but where that is not possible it will happen as soon as reasonably practicable.

Any exchanges of information will ideally happen at DSL (or deputy) level, and likewise between special educational needs co-ordinators/named individual with oversight of SEN provision for children with EHC plans. However, it is acknowledged this may not always be possible. Where this is the case our school senior leaders will take responsibility.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment based on the information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff needs to know the information.

Supporting parents with online safety

There is a lot of support available to keep pupils safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers and these should be shared with parents and available on the school website

www.stbarnabasceprimary.co.uk

- Thinkyouknow (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- Internet matters (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Parent info (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- LGfL (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Net-aware (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

Peer on Peer Abuse

St Barnabas CE Primary School recognises that during the event of any closure or partial closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where the school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE 2020 and of those outlined within the Safeguarding Policy.

The school will listen and work with the child, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that child.