

## **Ribchester St. Wilfrid's C of E Primary School**

### **Covid-19 Addendum to School Safeguarding Policy**

*This is an addendum to our established Safeguarding Policy and will be reviewed as necessary.*

#### **Background**

On 27<sup>th</sup> March the DfE published guidance to schools in fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities during the pandemic restrictions. This is available at –

<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>

<b>KEY AREA</b>	<b>CONTENT</b>
Maintaining links with safeguarding partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school will check briefings from the DfE, Lancashire County Council and local Safeguarding Advisers in LCC and MASH.</li> </ul>
Referrals to CSC and LADO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LADO Services are operating during the pandemic, using Skype as necessary and so any concerns about harm to children are subject to consultation with LADO as in normal operating.</li> <li>CSC can be contacted on 0300 123 6720 (no hot-line services) and <a href="mailto:cypreferrals@lancashire.gov.uk">cypreferrals@lancashire.gov.uk</a></li> <li>The Schools Safeguarding Advice Line and MASH Education Officers are still available and will be used for advice about threshold and wider safeguarding concerns.</li> </ul>
Designated Safeguarding Lead	<p>In line with the DfE guidance (see link above), if a trained DSL is not available on site then the following alternative arrangements have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a trained DSL or deputy from the school will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.</i></li> <li><i>Where a trained DSL or deputy is not on site, in addition to the above option, DfE recommends a senior leader takes responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This might include updating and managing access to child protection files, liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as 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.</i></li> <li><i>all school staff and volunteers will have access to the trained DSL or deputy and know on any given day who that person is and how to speak to them.</i></li> <li><i>It is acknowledged that DSL training is very unlikely to take place during this period (although the option of online training can be explored). 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.</i></li> <li><i>It is acknowledged that school will face unique challenges at this time. Where reasonably possible, the DSL (or deputy) should consider these in a child protection context and reflect them in the child protection policy as appropriate.</i></li> <li>If no DSL is available to school – staff can seek further guidance from the County Safeguarding advice line 01772 531196</li> <li>Children in our setting – we will ensure that if children from another school are being cared for on our site or vice versa then links will be in place between the respective DSL functions to share information.</li> <li>We will ensure arrangements to ensure that all staff, including volunteers and any adults who are not familiar with the setting know who to speak to if they have concerns about a child.</li> <li>We will have arrangements to ensure that all adults on school site understand the school's commitment to acting immediately in response to any safeguarding concerns</li> </ul>

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Supporting Vulnerable Children (allocated to a social worker)	<p>Ensure that there are arrangements in place to maintain the school's contribution to multi agency safeguarding and support for looked after children (CLA), Children in Need and children subject to Child Protection plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School holds a list of children and can identify by name which children are vulnerable or should be in school - including how to contact them. Up-to-date contact details have been requested and received by school.</li> <li>• School has in place arrangements to identify which children have Social Workers (SW) and how to contact the SW – school will agree interim safeguarding plans with the SW.</li> <li>• School can identify which children are looked after and becoming looked after and have the relevant contact arrangements for the VHT (Virtual Headteacher) for each authority who have a child placed in our school. (3 authorities – Salford, Rotherham and Blackburn with Darwen.)</li> </ul>
Supporting potentially Vulnerable Children (not allocated to a social worker)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children also identified as vulnerable are those who have involvement with a single agency or CAF/TAF support and completed the necessary risk assessment (see Appendix 1).</li> <li>• School to maintain contact / support and identifying any concerns in such families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Class teachers are in contact with them through Class Dojo (on line learning platform for setting their home learning).</li> <li>○ If no contact with them during the day, the teachers will message both the child and the adults.</li> <li>○ Staff member, who lives in the village, on standby if we need to check up on them until DSL can get to the village.</li> <li>○ When DSL is in school, contact will be made with the parents.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Peer on peer abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School will follow the arrangements as stated in the established Safeguarding policy.</li> <li>• Additional arrangements to be in place to prevent and respond to any concerns related to peer on peer abuse between children who do not ordinarily attend your school or are being looked after by adults who do not know them well: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Risk assessments will be made in conjunction with the other children's school.</li> <li>○ Adults will be informed of any concerns on a need to know basis.</li> <li>○ Any incidents will be reported to the child's school DSL and reported to parents, in line with our established Safeguarding policy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Online Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding children who are not physically attending school, taking into account a likely increase in online activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Refresher online safety sessions given to children before closure of school.</li> <li>○ Children reminded how to report any online issues they are not comfortable with.</li> <li>○ Additional activities posted on Class Dojo re: online safety.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Supporting parents to help keep their children safe online at this time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Initial letter sent home re: home learning, reiterated the need to keep children safe while they are working online.</li> <li>○ Additional information posted on Class Dojo re: online safety and how parents can support their children.</li> <li>○ Fortnightly online safety activity sheets from Thinkuknow. to help parents support their child while schools are partially closed, posted on Class Dojo.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Children with specific health needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School has up-to-date and necessary information to meet children's health needs and that this is understood by those caring for them (allergies, asthma, epilepsy, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Medical needs of identified children are shared with adult caring for them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If children with medical needs are due to attend school, their needs will be identified on the list to be given to staff on the rota for that day.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Safer Recruitment & use of Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrangements will be put in place to safely recruit and oversee volunteers with reference to para 167-172 of KCSIE (see Appendix 2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Volunteers will only be used as a last resort if staff are unable to cover the needs of Key workers.</li> <li>○ School will ensure that new staff, staff relocated to the school, and volunteers understand the staff code of conduct</li> <li>○ School will ensure that any volunteers have been individually risk-assessed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Operation Encompass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School receives an Operation Encompass notification in respect of a child who is not attending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ school will consider what further actions are required as they would in normal working. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ including speaking to parents</li> <li>▪ seeking advice from MASH / Schools Safeguarding Officer.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Named person responsible for ensuring staff are aware of the above.

DSL NAME: Mrs. Angela Cottam

DATE: 02/04/2020

Named governor aware of the school's interim arrangements

GOVERNOR NAME: Mr. David Porter

DATE: 02/04/2020

## Template for Risk Management of Vulnerable Children (with no Social Worker)

Factor	Assessment	Comments
Name of Child/ren		
Legal Status		
Why are we involved?  What are the risks?		
How have the risks changed due to CV19?		
Who else is supporting this family (professionals and social networks) and how?		
Who else is supporting this child / placement?		
Is the child attending school?		
What alternatives for learning are in place?		
Current CV19 impact on this family? (Potential symptoms, self-isolating, high-risk group?)		
How will the child's / parent(s) engagement be monitored?		
When will the above need to be reviewed?		

## Keeping children safe in education – Statutory guidance for schools and colleges

### September 2019

#### Volunteers

167. Under no circumstances should a volunteer in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

168. Volunteers who, on an unsupervised basis teach or look after children regularly, or provide personal care on a one-off basis in schools and colleges, will be in regulated activity. The school or college should obtain an enhanced DBS certificate (which should include barred list information) for all volunteers who are new to working in regulated activity. Existing volunteers in regulated activity do not have to be re-checked if they have already had a DBS check (which includes barred list information). However, schools and colleges may conduct a repeat DBS check (which should include barred list information) on any such volunteer should they have concerns.

169. There are certain circumstances where schools and colleges may obtain an enhanced DBS certificate (not including barred list information), for volunteers who are not engaging in regulated activity. This is set out in DBS workforce guides, which can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). Employers are not legally permitted to request barred list information on a supervised volunteer as they are not considered to be engaged in regulated activity.

170. The school or college should undertake a risk assessment and use their professional judgement and experience when deciding whether to obtain an enhanced DBS certificate for any volunteer not engaging in regulated activity. In doing so they should consider:

- the nature of the work with children;
- what the establishment knows about the volunteer, including formal or informal information offered by staff, parents and other volunteers;
- whether the volunteer has other employment or undertakes voluntary activities where referees can advise on suitability;
- whether the role is eligible for an enhanced DBS check. Details of the risk assessment should be recorded.

171. It is for schools and colleges to determine whether a volunteer is considered to be supervised. In making this decision, and where an individual is supervised, to help determine the appropriate level of supervision schools must have regard to the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State (replicated at Annex F). This guidance requires that, for a person to be considered supervised, the supervision must be:

- by a person who is in regulated activity;
- regular and day to day; and
- “reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children.”

172. The DBS cannot provide barred list information on any person, including volunteers, who are not in, or seeking to engage in regulated activity.