



Allen Edwards Primary School

Child protection and safeguarding: COVID-19 addendum

Approved by:	Nicola Harris	Date: 21.04.2020
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The aims of this addendum are to ensure that all safeguarding procedures are adapted and rigorous so that they keep our children safe during the Covid-19 pandemic.

At Allen Edwards, we aim to develop an ethos in which children feel safe, their viewpoints are valued and they are encouraged to talk and listen. Every member of staff is committed to the safeguarding of every child in our care. As a Rights Respecting School, we are committed to ensuring that all children's rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) are promoted and upheld.

The UNCRC articles which inform this policy are:

Article 3: Best Interests of the Child - The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

Article 6: Life, Survival and Development - Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

Article 18: Parental Responsibilities and State Assistance - Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child. Governments must support parents by creating support services for children and giving parents the help they need to raise their children.

Article 19: Protection from Violence, Abuse and Neglect - Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 20: Children Unable to Live with their Family - If a child cannot be looked after by their immediate family, the government must give them special protection and assistance. This includes making sure the child is provided with alternative care that is continuous and respects the child's culture, language and religion.

Article 32: Child Labour - Governments must protect children from economic exploitation and work that is dangerous or might harm their health, development or education. Governments must set a minimum age for children to work and ensure that work conditions are safe and appropriate.

Article 33: Drug Abuse - Governments must protect children from the illegal use of drugs and from being involved in the production or distribution of drugs.

Article 34: sexual exploitation) Governments must protect children from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Article 35: Abduction, Sale and Trafficking - Governments must protect children from being abducted, sold or moved illegally to a different place in or outside their country for the purpose of exploitation.

Article 39: Recovery from Trauma and Reintegration - Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life



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Contents

Important contacts	3
1. Scope and definitions	4
2. Core safeguarding principles	4
3. Reporting concerns.....	4
4. DSL (and deputy) arrangements	4
5. Working with other agencies	5
6. Monitoring attendance	5
7. Peer-on-peer abuse.....	5
8. Concerns about a staff member or volunteer	5
9. Support for children who aren't 'vulnerable' but where we have concerns	6
10. Contact plans	6
11. Safeguarding all children	6
12. Online safety	6
13. Mental health	7
14. Staff recruitment, training and induction	7
15. Children attending other settings	8
16. Monitoring arrangements.....	9
17. Links with other policies.....	9

Important contacts

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)	Louise Robertson	louise@allenedwards.lambeth.sch.uk Telephone: 02076223985
Deputy DSL	Nicola Harris	nicolah@allenedwards.lambeth.sch.uk Telephone: 02076223985 Mobile: 07976371438
Designated member of senior leadership team if DSL (and deputy) cannot be on site	Philip Slatter	phil@allenedwards.lambeth.sch.uk Telephone: 02076223985
Headteacher	Louise Robertson	louise@allenedwards.lambeth.sch.uk Telephone: 02076223985
Local authority designated officer (LADO)		
Chair of governors	Sue Quirk	sue@allenedwards.lambeth.sch.uk



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1. Scope and definitions

This addendum applies during the period of school closure due to COVID-19, and reflects updated advice from our 3 local safeguarding partners; the **local** authority chief executive, the accountable officer of the clinical commissioning group, and the chief officer of police as well as the LA (Lambeth). All three **safeguarding partners** have equal and joint responsibility for **local safeguarding** arrangements.

It sets out changes to our normal child protection policy in light of the Department for Education's guidance [Coronavirus: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#), and should be read in conjunction with that policy.

Unless covered here, our normal child protection policy continues to apply.

The Department for Education's (DfE's) definition of 'vulnerable children' includes those who:

- Have a social worker, including children:
 - With a child protection plan
 - Assessed as being in need
 - Looked after by the local authority
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

2. Core safeguarding principles

We will still have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

Although we are operating in a different way to normal, we are still following these important safeguarding principles:

- The best interests of children must come first
- If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act on it immediately
- A designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy should be available at all times (see section 4 for details of our arrangements)
- It's essential that unsuitable people don't enter the school workforce or gain access to children
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online

3. Reporting concerns

All staff and volunteers must continue to act on any concerns they have about a child immediately. It is still vitally important to do this, both for children still attending school and those at home.

Any concerns must be brought to the attention of Louise Robertson (Headteacher) or Nicola Harris (Assistant Headteacher) as soon as safely possible and this must occur before 3pm.

As a reminder, all staff should continue to work with and support children's social workers, where they have one, to help protect vulnerable children.

4. DSL (and deputy) arrangements

We aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible. Details of all important contacts are listed in the 'Important contacts' section at the start of this addendum.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be in school, they can be contacted remotely by email or telephone.

Louise Robertson: louise@allenedwards.lambeth.sch.uk/02076223985 or
Nicola Harris: nicola@allenedwards.lambeth.sch.uk/

A senior leader is on site each day and will be responsible for reporting safeguarding concerns to the DSL or Deputy DSL.

We will keep all school staff and volunteers informed by email as to who will be the DSL (or deputy) on any given day, and how to contact them.

We will ensure that DSLs (and deputies), wherever their location, know who the most vulnerable children in our school are.



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On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a designated safeguarding officer will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding.

Philip Slatter: phil@allenedwards.lamebth.sch.uk

The senior leader will be responsible for liaising with the off-site DSL (or deputy) to make sure they (the senior leader) can:

- › Identify the most vulnerable children in school
- › Report Directly to the DSL and DDSL, who will update and manage access to child protection files, where necessary
- › Report Directly to the DSL and DDSL, who will

liaise with children's social workers where they need access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments

5. Working with other agencies

We will continue to work with children's social care, and with virtual school heads for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

We will continue to update this addendum where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- › Our 3 local safeguarding partners
- › The local authority about children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need

6. Monitoring attendance

As most children will not be attending school during this period of school closure, we will not be completing our usual attendance registers or following our usual procedures to follow up on non-attendance.

The exception to this is where any child we expect to attend school during the closure doesn't attend, or stops attending. In these cases, we will:

- › Follow up on their absence with their parents or carers, by contacting them by phone and Dojo message.
- › Notify their social worker, where they have one

We are using the Department for Education's daily online attendance form to keep an accurate record of who is attending school.

We will make arrangements with parents and carers to make sure we have up-to-date emergency contact details, and additional contact details where possible. Before school was closed, email addresses for all parents were obtained so that contact could be made via phone or via our Dojo messaging service.

7. Peer-on-peer abuse

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education when managing reports and supporting victims of peer-on-peer abuse.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately – about both children attending school and those at home.

8. Concerns about a staff member or volunteer

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately – whether those concerns are about staff/volunteers working on site or remotely.

If you have concerns about a member of staff or volunteer, or an allegation is made about a member of staff or volunteer posing a risk of harm to children, speak to the Headteacher. If the concerns/allegations are about the Headteacher, speak to the chair of governors. The Headteacher/Chair of Governors will then follow the procedures set out in appendix 3 of the Safeguarding Policy on the school website, if appropriate. Where



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appropriate, the school will inform Ofsted of the allegation and actions taken, within the necessary timescale (see appendix 3 for more detail).

We will continue to refer adults who have harmed or pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

We will continue to refer potential cases of teacher misconduct to the Teaching Regulation Agency. We will do this using the email address Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk for the duration of the COVID-19 period, in line with government guidance.

9. Support for children who aren't 'vulnerable' but where we have concerns

We have the option to offer places in school to children who don't meet the Department for Education's definition of 'vulnerable', but who we have safeguarding concerns about. We will work with parents/carers to do this.

If these children will not be attending school, we will put a contact plan in place, as explained in section 10 below.

10. Contact plans

We have contact plans for children with a social worker and children who we have safeguarding concerns about, for circumstances where:

- They won't be attending school (for example where the school, parent/carer and social worker, if relevant, have decided together that this wouldn't be in the child's best interests); or
- They would usually attend but have to self-isolate

Each child has an individual plan which sets out:

- That the child will be contacted at least once a week by telephone.
- Nicola Harris or Louise Robertson will make contact with the family.
- Contact and support will also be maintained throughout the week via Dojo where work activity will be monitored.

We have agreed these plans with children's social care where relevant, and will review them every month.

If we can't make contact, we will make house visits, contact social services or the police where appropriate.

11. Safeguarding all children

Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time potentially puts all children at greater risk.

Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on concerns immediately in line with the procedures set out in section 3 above.

For children at home, they will look out for signs like:

- Not completing assigned work or logging on to school systems
- No contact from children or families
- Seeming more withdrawn during any class check-ins or video calls

Children are likely to be spending more time online during this period – see section 12 below for our approach to online safety both in and outside school.

See section 13 below for information on how we will support pupils' mental health.

12. Online safety

12.1 In school

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



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If IT staff are unavailable, our contingency plan is that a member of SLT will support families with IT difficulties.

12.2 Outside school

Where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow our existing Acceptable Use Policy

In addition to this:

- Staff will communicate via Class Dojo or J2E with children.
- SLT and teaching will contact parents via phone calls where appropriate to ensure the children's safety or support with online difficulties. Video calls may be used to allow welfare checks to be made on the most vulnerable children.
- Direct contact details for DSL and DDSL have been provided to our most vulnerable families in case of an emergency.

Staff will continue to be alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm online, and act on any concerns immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out in section 3 of this addendum.

We will make sure children know how to report any concerns they have back to our school, and signpost them to other sources of support too.

12.3 Working with parents and carers

We will make sure parents and carers:

- › Are aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of staying safe online
- › Know what our school is asking children to do online, including what sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school
- › Are aware that they should only use reputable online companies or tutors if they wish to supplement the remote teaching and resources our school provides
- › Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online

13. Mental health

Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils.

We will also signpost all pupils, parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

In addition:

We are signposting families to:

- <https://www.kooth.com>
- Providing Art Therapy boxes to those most vulnerable
- Offering support from Speech and Language Therapists (SLT) and Lambeth Autism Advisory Service (LAAS)

When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health. Where possible videos and short messages will be uploaded to Dojo so that children can have some contact with their class teacher.

14. Staff recruitment, training and induction

14.1 Recruiting new staff and volunteers

We continue to recognise the importance of robust safer recruitment procedures, so that adults and volunteers who work in our school are safe to work with children.

We will continue to follow our safer recruitment procedures, and part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.



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In urgent cases, when validating proof of identity documents to apply for a DBS check, we will initially accept verification of scanned documents via online video link, rather than being in physical possession of the original documents. This approach is in line with revised guidance from the DBS.

New staff must still present the original documents when they first attend work at our school.

We will continue to do our usual checks on new volunteers, and do risk assessments to decide whether volunteers who aren't in regulated activity should have an enhanced DBS check, in accordance with paragraphs 167-172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

14.2 Staff 'on loan' from other schools

We will assess the risks of staff 'on loan' working in our school, and seek assurance from the 'loaning' school that staff have had the appropriate checks. Louise Robertson (Headteacher) will complete these risk assessments.

We will also use the DBS Update Service, where these staff have signed up to it, to check for any new information.

14.3 Safeguarding induction and training

We will make sure staff and volunteers are aware of changes to our procedures and local arrangements.

New staff and volunteers will continue to receive:

- A safeguarding induction
- A copy of our children protection policy (and this addendum)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education part 1

We will decide on a case-by-case basis what level of safeguarding induction staff 'on loan' need. In most cases, this will be:

- A copy of our child protection policy and this addendum
- Confirmation of local processes
- Confirmation of DSL arrangements

14.4 Keeping records of who is on site

We will keep a record of which staff and volunteers are on site each day, and that appropriate checks have been carried out for them.

We will continue to keep our single central record up to date.

We will use the single central record to log:

- Everyone working or volunteering in our school each day, including staff 'on loan'
- Details of any risk assessments carried out on staff and volunteers on loan from elsewhere

15. Children attending other settings

Where children are temporarily required to attend another setting, we will make sure the receiving school is provided with any relevant welfare and child protection information.

Wherever possible, our DSL (or Deputy) and/or Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) will share, as applicable:

- The reason(s) why the child is considered vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them
- The child's EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or personal education plan
- Details of the child's social worker
- Details of the virtual school head

Where the DSL, Deputy or SENCO cannot share this information, the senior leader(s) identified in section 4 will do this.



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We will share this information before the child arrives as far as is possible, and otherwise as soon as possible afterwards.

16. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the 3 local safeguarding partners, the LA or DfE is updated, and as a minimum 4 weeks by Nicola Harris (Assistant Headteacher). At every review, it will be approved by the chair of governors.

17. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- IT acceptable use policy
- Health and safety policy
- Online safety policy