

# Annex to Child Protection Policy

## COVID-19 changes to our Child Protection Policy

January 2021

### Shamblehurst Primary School's Response to COVID-19

Despite the changes to school life during the Covid pandemic, the school's Child Protection Policy is fundamentally the same: **children and young people always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the DSL in line with our established safeguarding procedure.**

From 5th January 2021 parents and 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 need to attend, or vulnerable children. As per previous stages of this ongoing pandemic, it is highly likely that new challenges will emerge. However, we must ensure that our robust systems to protect and safeguard children do not waiver and continue to remain a key priority throughout. All staff and volunteers have a legal responsibility to protect and safeguard children and young people, as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020.

### Reporting arrangements

The school arrangements continue in line with our child protection policy.

Key Contacts:

Key Personnel	Name (s)	Telephone No.
DSL	Anna Jones	01489782342
Deputy DSL(s)	Sarah Curry Michelle Tollefson (Year R) Kate Edwards (year 5) Sally Mohamed (Deputy Head)	01489 782342

School's named Prevent lead	Sally Mohamed	01489 782342
Schools Mental Health Lead	Anna Jones – Mental Health First Aider Sally Mohamed – Mental Health First Aider Claire Pyle Mental Health First Aider Michelle Kelly Mental health First Aider	01489 782342
Nominated Safeguarding Governor	Becky Burden-Veal – until Feb 2021	01489 782 342
Chair of Governors	Dina Wilson	01489 782 342
Children's Reception Team at Children's Services Hampshire		01329 225379
Out of hours social care		0300 555 1373
Police	NPCC guidance	101 or in emergencies 999

Safeguarding advisors / Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs)	Barbara Piddington Fiona Armfield Mark Blackwell	HCC Safeguarding Unit 01962 876364 <a href="mailto:Child.protection@hants.gov.uk">Child.protection@hants.gov.uk</a>
School nurse	Helen Dunlop	02380475844
Children's Service Department, District Service Manager		03005551384

The school's approach ensures the DSL or a deputy is always on site while the school is open.

CPOMS should continue to be used and ALL DSLs will be expected to reviewing CPOMS daily.

Staff will continue to follow the Child Protection procedure and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any child, whether in school or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Children's services may be affected by the impact of the virus on staff and an increased demand for services. Where a child is at risk of significant harm there may be a need to be persistent in referring concerns to the local authority. The arrangements for contacting children's services are:

\*To fill out the interagency form from the Hampshire website.

\*If you need to phone urgently the number is – 01329 225379 Hampshire

\*In some cases you might need to phone Hampshire Adult Services – 03005551386

\*Southampton Children's Services number is 02380 833336 (out of hours 02380 233344)

\*All our children who have a social worker have their social worker's number on their CPOMS –DSLs and SENDCo can access these details,

Should a child in the school's view be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond, the school will immediately escalate its procedures and call the police

## Identifying vulnerability

The Government published updated guidelines in January 2021 as to which children were to be deemed as vulnerable.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
  - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
  - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - those living in temporary accommodation
  - those who are young carers
  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  - care leavers
  - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

We have put in place specific and bespoke arrangements in respect of the following groups:

- Looked After Children or children with Special guardianship – we have liaised with the families of our looked after children and worked alongside them to access the risk of coming into school or staying at home. We have been in contact with the Virtual School to alert them of where our Looked after Children are at this time. We phone these families, if they are not in school at least weekly.

- Previously Looked After Children – we have contacted our previously looked after children and worked alongside parents to access the risks in attending school or staying at home. We phone these families at least one a week to check on how they are, and offer support if necessary.
- Children subject to a child protection plan – we would encourage children subject to a child protection plan to attend school. We have liaised with social workers to alert them to children who are not in school. We have worked with the families to assess whether attending school is in the best interest of the child/ren. We phone these children at least weekly and closely monitor their work on Seesaw.
- Children who have, or have previously had, a social worker. Where we are aware that these children are still vulnerable and would benefit from being in school we have worked with families on an individual basis. These children are contacted weekly.
- Children with an EHCP – we have risk assessed these children alongside their families, and advice from the Local Authority. Some of our children with EHC plans can safely stay at home. Some of our children with EHC plans have complex health needs which means they should stay at home as they are within a high risk category. We will continue to liaise with carers, therapists or clinicians.
- Children on the edge of social care involvement or pending allocation of a social worker – at Shamblehurst Primary School all DSLs are aware of our most vulnerable children – we also have an additionally vulnerable child register. Where required these children will be offered a place at school. Where it is safer for the child to remain at home – we contact these families at least once a week to ensure they are well and that they are thriving at home.
- Other children the school considers vulnerable, including those with mental health needs, Young Carers and those who are technologically vulnerable can be offered a place at school. We liaise with these families individually. More children may be added to this group in response to concerns raised with the DSL. DSLs monitor CPOMS daily and are able to follow up any concerns with parents and encourage them to attend school should it be in the child's best interest to do so. Welfare calls home are also monitored by the SEND team who can flag up children who are struggling at home and would benefit from being in school.

The majority of children in our school are working remotely through Seesaw. This enables teachers to 'check in' with all our pupils. Where children do not have access to the Seesaw we deliver or send learning packs. We have provided IPADS and laptops to all families that have requested one to ensure the majority of our children can take up our online offer. Children who are not accessing Seesaw are monitored in line with our remote learning policy. Class teachers and LSAs are conducting at least weekly welfare calls to check in with all our families. A DSL should be informed via CPOMS if there has been no work completed

on Seesaw – a DSL will then either call the family or ask the teacher of family support worker to make contact.

We make contact with all our families on a weekly basis through our welfare teams and calls. Often these teams pick up additional vulnerabilities that we address with families on a one-to-one basis.

The plans in respect of each child in these groups will be reviewed throughout the Covid-19 crisis and in respect to any new guidance that emerges from a National and Local level.

All children in receipt of free school meals have been given one food hamper and subsequent vouchers. We liaise regularly with the Food bank in Hedge End and support the charity work on families within our school so that children do not go hungry during this pandemic.

## **Holiday arrangements**

Shamblehurst Primary school will currently not be opening over February half term.

## **Attendance**

The school is following the attendance guidance issued by government. Where a child is expected and does not arrive, the school we will follow our attendance procedures and make contact with the family. Where there continues to be concerns regarding a lack of attendance, the school office and DSLs will attempt a range of methods to contact parents and if necessary arrange a home visit by the school or another appropriate agency. The risk of COVID-19 **does not override** the duty on the school to ensure children and young people are safe.

The school will also follow the attendance procedure if contact proves impossible with children at home. This will involve a referral to children's services and contacting the police for a welfare check. This is in line with our published attendance policy.

## **Staff will be aware of increased risk to Mental Health**

The pressures on children and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, bereavement, poverty, and financial or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in the setting of any work for children to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning – see below). Staff will be aware of the mental health of both children and their parents and carers, informing the DSL about any concerns. Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as those experienced through this pandemic, can affect the mental health of pupils, parents and staff. We will ensure appropriate help is in place to support children remotely and those in school. Wellbeing remains a priority, in school and out of school.

There are now four trained Mental Health First Aiders in School. The SEND team are leading on a Mental Health and Wellbeing project, supporting pupils, parents and staff.

## **Peer on peer abuse**

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a school closure or partial closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse, including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision. Extra care should be taken where groups have mixed age, developmental stages, are attending other schools as an interim measure and similar. When making contact with these families our staff will ask about relationships between learners.

We also address the issue of peer-on-peer abuse in our remote learning curriculum – staff will monitor our online platforms and ensure that any concerning behaviours are addressed immediately by contacting a DSL – who will contact the family and or children’s services.

## **Children and online safety**

Young people will be using the internet more during this period. The school may also use online approaches to deliver training or support. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of cyberbullying and other risks online and apply the same child-centred safeguarding practices as when children were learning at the school. Shamblehurst Primary school will ensure regular contact with Drift It and Hampshire IT to maintain technical knowledge and safe IT arrangements are in place. All staff are aware of our Code of Conduct and the starting point for online teaching should follow the principles outlined in this document. The policy includes acceptable use of technologies, staff pupil/student relationships and communication, including social media. Shamblehurst Primary school will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

- The school continues to ensure appropriate filters and monitors are in place
- Our governing body will review arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate
- The school has taken on board guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on safe remote learning .(We have reviewed the code of conduct and information sharing policy accordingly.) We have a remote learning statement on our website.
- Staff have discussed the risk that professional boundaries could slip during this exceptional period and been reminded of the school’s code of conduct and importance of using school systems to communicate with children and their families.
- Children and young people accessing remote learning have previously received guidance on keeping safe online and know how to raise concerns with the school and Childline.

- Staff are aware of the risk of work at home and using the internet to record lessons.
- We have sent all parents a link to the Childline website with a safer internet page –
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>
- Parents and carers have received information about keeping children safe online. They were sent the link above and asked to share with their children. It is also added to our website.
  - [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) – also offers advice for parents and carers

When schools returned in September 2020 we ensured that children were confident with keeping themselves safe online and were aware of the risk and dangers of certain apps. We used Seesaw as our Home Learning tool as a means of ensuring children could access this platform and could access it safely. Our website has lots of advice of how parents can also ensure their children are safe online. We publish a monthly newsletter on keeping safe online.

Contact between pupils and /or parents and teachers should only be through the SEESAW/Tapestry portal provided by the school or through the school email account. [adminoffice@shamblehurst.co.uk](mailto:adminoffice@shamblehurst.co.uk)

Teachers will not live-stream lessons. There will be some Zoom calls made, these will be to support children’s mental health, to support children with complex needs and to continue to carry our interventions that would have been place in school. This has been risk assessed to ensure all safeguarding criteria are met. The school is looking at offering a daily Zoom call for those children working remotely from staff in school – this is currently not in place and is being risk assessed accordingly.(Jan 2021)

Seesaw and Tapestry are being used to upload learning and inputs, whilst engaging with the children and their learning. This gives the opportunity for the children to re-watch the inputs, if needed. Staff will record short video input to Seesaw/Tapestry for each subjects daily to model key skills or to scaffold learning.

### **Allegations or concerns about staff**

With such different arrangements young people could be at greater risk of abuse from staff or volunteers. We remind all staff to maintain the view that ‘it could happen here’ and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to the safeguarding team.



Any staff or volunteers from outside our setting will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of the risks and know how to take action if they are concerned - Kitchen staff for example.

We have confirmed the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged - our LADO is Mark Blackwell – 01962 876364

If necessary, the school will continue to follow the duty to refer to DBS any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, and to the Teacher Regulation Agency in line Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 using the address

[Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk).

## **New staff or volunteers**

New starters must have an induction before starting or on their first morning with the DSL or a deputy. They must read the school child protection policy, the behaviour policy, the whistleblowing policy and the code of conduct. The DSL or deputy will ensure new recruits know who to contact if worried about a child and ensure the new starters are familiar with the child protection procedure.

If staff or volunteers are transferring in from other registered education or childcare settings for a temporary period to support the care of children, we will seek evidence from their setting that:

- The school will take in to account that the staff from other schools or from Hcs3 will have had DBS checks and safeguarding training. They will receive the basic induction package for safeguarding – they will be aware of the Child Protection and Safeguarding policies of Shamblehurst Primary School and reporting arrangements should they have safeguarding concerns.
- The school will not allow volunteers in to school during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **New children at the school**

It will be important for any school whose children are attending another setting to do whatever they reasonable can to provide the receiving institution with any relevant welfare and child protection information. This is especially important where children are vulnerable.

For looked-after-children, any change in school should be led and managed by the VSH with responsibility for the child. The receiving school should be aware of the reason the child is vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them. As a minimum the receiving institution should, as appropriate, have access to a vulnerable 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). This should ideally happen before a child arrives and, where that is not possible as soon as reasonably practicable. Any exchanges of information will ideally happen at DSL level and, likewise between special educational needs co-ordinator with oversight for SEND provision for children with EHC plans.

Whilst schools must continue to have appropriate regard to data protection and GDPR they should not prevent the sharing of information for the purpose of keeping children safe. Further advice about information sharing can be found at paragraphs 76-83 of KCSIE.

This policy was approved remotely on \*\*\*\*\* by the Governing Body.