Covid 19 Addendum to Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy 2020-2021

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# Context

1. This addendum contains details of the nursery’s safeguarding arrangements during the COVID-19 period, following guidance issued by DfE.
2. From the beginning of the autumn term in September 2020, the majority of children will return to nursery full time.
3. In line with public health advice, a small number of children will still be unable to attend because they will be self-isolating having had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
4. Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August 2020, subject to continued decline in the rates of community transmission of COVID-19. This means that even the small number of children who remain on the shielded patient list can return to nursery, as can those who have family members who are shielding.
5. Some children who are no longer required to shield but who remain under specialist care may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school, usually at their next planned clinical appointment.
6. If rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore, they may be temporarily absent.
7. Any wider opening risk assessments and related health and safety risk assessments will appropriately take into consideration a safeguarding approach.
8. All staff and volunteers will be aware of the policy addendum, which will also be made available on the nursery’s website.

# Vulnerable children

1. Where there is a partial or full closure of the nursery, there is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker and children of parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response will attend nursery, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk.
2. Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care and those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including those with child in need plans or child protection plans, looked after children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.
3. Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors.
4. The nursery will continue to work with and support children’s social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children’s social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead persons for this will be the school’s DSL and designated teacher for looked after children.

# Designated safeguarding lead arrangements

1. There will be trained DSL on site as most children return to nursery. In exceptional circumstances where this is not possible, a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available for contact via phone or online video, for example when working from home.
2. In addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.
3. The DSL will continue to engage with social workers and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be held remotely.

# Supporting children not in nursery

1. When children are unable to attend nursery because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, the nursery will continue to follow the *Safeguarding guidance for schools in the event of a school closure SOP March 2020*, which outlines procedures for maintaining regular contact with pupils and families, including home visits where necessary.
2. Annex C of the guidance on [*Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19)*](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19), as well as statutory guidance on online safety in Annex C of [*Keeping children safe in education*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2)provides further information.
3. Nursery will continue to signpost children and their parents/carers, to a range of appropriate sources of support, within school and beyond school.

# Supporting children in nursery

1. Nursery will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.
2. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and that staff to pupil ratios are appropriate, to maximise safety.
3. The nursery will refer to the Government guidance (as set out in *A*[*ctions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020)) on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19.
4. It is recognised that staff, parents/carers and children may experience some degree of anxiety about the return to nursery.
5. The nursery will plan to develop an inclusive culture so that everyone returns to a positive working environment. Nursery will refer to the DfE guidance on [*mental health and behaviour*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2)to help identify children who might need additional support, and to put this support in place.
6. Pastoral staff will be available for children and will be given the time to provide support as required.
7. The nursery will continue to signpost children and parents/carers, to a range of appropriate sources of support, in school and beyond school.
8. The nursery will complete the Safeguarding Risk Assessment (vulnerable pupils) available as part of its preparation for reopening [*https://www.reopeningschools.org/*](https://www.reopeningschools.org/) to ensure that all children who are categorised as vulnerable are appropriately supported.

# Reporting a concern

1. The nursery will continue to use its normal referral processes for any children where it has concerns, in line with its’ *Safeguarding Policy*.
2. The nursery will continue to use its normal referral processes for any adults working with children where it has concerns, in line with its’ *Safeguarding Policy*.

# Attendance recording and absence monitoring

1. Absence procedures for phone calls and home visits will be followed in line with the Safeguarding guidance for schools in the event of a school closure SOP March 2020.

# Safeguarding training and induction

1. 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 have missed their refresher training.
2. All existing nursery staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (2020). The DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.
3. Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter the nursery, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.
4. All staff will maintain the view that ‘*it could happen here’* and report any concern to the DSL or Deputy DSL.

# Safer recruitment

1. 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, the nursery will continue to follow the safer recruitment processes in line with the *Safeguarding Policy*, and including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (2020) (KCSIE).
2. In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking, which the nursery will follow. [*https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines*](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines)
3. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.
4. If volunteers are required to complete tasks that do not involve regulated activity with children

e.g. delivering food to vulnerable adults, or supporting wider community initiatives then a risk- based approach will be taken in-line with the nursery’s *Safeguarding Policy*, ensuring that appropriate supervision is provided where required.

The nursery will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found in KCSIE.

1. Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current national emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that the nursery remains aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the nursery, and is assured that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. The nursery will continue to keep its single central record (SCR) up to date in line with its’ *Safeguarding Policy* and as outlined in KCSIE.

# Online safety in nursery

1. The nursery will continue to provide a safe environment including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.
2. Where children are using computers in nursery, appropriate supervision will be in place.

# Online safety away from nursery

1. It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs that a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the *Safeguarding Policy* and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children’s social care and as required, the police.
2. Where live webcams are used for remote education, the following safeguarding issues will be considered:
	* No individual teaching will take place. As far as possible, there should be no fewer than 5 pupils in one group or class.
	* The live class should be recorded and backed up elsewhere, so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
	* Data Controllers will reassure themselves that any teaching/learning software and/or platforms are suitable and raise no privacy issues; nor will they infringe the provider’s terms and conditions (for example, there will be no business use of consumer products).
3. The nursery will ensure that there is an appropriate risk assessment in place.

# Peer-on-peer abuse

1. Where the nursery receives a report of peer-on-peer abuse, it will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and in line with the nursery’s *Safeguarding Policy*.
2. The nursery will listen to and work with the child, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that child.
3. Concerns and actions must be recorded on the safeguarding platform and appropriate referrals made.