

COVID-19 Addendum for Safeguarding Policy 2021

Introduction

On 4th January, the Prime Minister announced a new national lockdown. During the lockdown, schools and colleges should only allow vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers to attend. All other school and college children and young people will learn remotely until at least February half term.

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Head Teacher	Coral McIntosh	01270 685527	head@brierley.cheshire.sch.uk
Designated safeguarding lead	Hayley Cunningham	01270 685527	hcunningham@brierley.cheshire.sch.uk
Designated safeguarding lead	Rachel Bridgett (Maternity Leave)	01270 685527	rhulse@brierley.cheshire.sch.uk
Chair of governors	Mike Birchall	01270 685527	chair@brierley.cheshire.sch.uk
LADO		01606 288931	LADO@cheshireeast.gov.uk
CheCS		03001235012 (Option 3) 0300 1235022 (Out of hours)	
SCiES	Karen Porter Ruth Gee Kathryn Jones Becky Jarrett Leah Gerrard	01606 275039	SCiESTeamEast@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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, health and care (EHCP) 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.

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.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

The Head teacher, Designated Safeguarding Leads and Assistant Head teachers know who our most vulnerable children are. These children will have been encouraged to attend school during the lockdown and DSL's will have liaised with social workers and the SENCO. Those vulnerable children who remain at home will receive additional welfare phone calls three times a week.

Attendance Monitoring

During the period of national lockdown, primary, secondary, alternative provision and special schools will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers only (recognising that the characteristics of the cohorts in special schools and alternative provision will mean these settings continue to offer face to face provision for all pupils, where appropriate). All other pupils should receive remote education. Pupils who are self-isolating should not attend school. Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils are also advised not to attend school.

Schools should continue to record attendance in the register. Schools should follow up on absences of the pupils who are expected to be in school but where a parent wishes for their child to be absent, we expect schools to authorise the absence during this national lockdown period. Absence will not be penalised.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL or trained safeguarding team member available on site at all times, where this is not the case a trained DSL or trained safeguarding team member will be available to be contacted via phone.

Where a trained DSL (or trained safeguarding team member) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader/member of the safeguarding trained team will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

Reporting a Concern

Where staffs have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school safeguarding policy. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. Copies of safeguarding forms are now in each bubble's staffrooms and can be filled in and placed in the DSL's tray. Staff must ensure they have followed this up with an email, text message and phone call to DSL to state they have done this. If the member of staff is isolation at home and have a concern about a child in their class who is also isolating, they will contact a member of the safeguarding team immediately and share their concerns.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the head teacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the head teacher whilst way from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the head teacher.

Concerns around the head teacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors

Safeguarding Training and Induction

Staff have all received refresher basic awareness safeguarding training which was accessed remotely. New members of staff will access training remotely. Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter school, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL should communicate with any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

If staff are deployed from under 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
- There are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- There is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to the individual

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

Safer Recruitment/Volunteers and Movement of Staff

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 the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (KCSIE).

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.

Where we are using volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 135-136 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity. We 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.

We will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing misconduct.teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National pandemic, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, we will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 1480156 in KCSIE.

Online Safety in Schools

We will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where students are using computers in school appropriate supervision will be in place.

Children and Online Safety Away From School

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs 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.

We will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GPDR requirements.

Remote Learning

The school uses Microsoft Teams as part of our remote learning offer. Staff send links to the Teams sessions via email to parents and the code of conduct has been explained when accessing the learning via Teams: -

- Microphones to remain muted until invited to unmute or unmuted by the teacher
- The chat feature can be used to talk to a member of staff and for required support.
- Children / parents must be fully dressed on camera and there must be nothing inappropriate on view in the background.

Children will also have paper based learning packs to use in conjunction with the Teams inputs to lessons. A member of staff will constantly be monitoring the live team sessions.

Supporting Children Not In School

Children who remain at home will receive support via Microsoft Teams as well as support with additional resources within their paper based learning packs in order to access the learning. There is always an additional member of staff monitoring the Teams sessions in order to provide additional support to those learning at home.

Teachers make weekly phone calls to the children in their class and these phone calls are logged. If teachers are having no contact with parents or children in their class and they are not engaging with home learning, they will inform a member of the DSL team or a member of SLT.

Vulnerable children who remain at home will receive phone calls 3 times a week and where applicable, the DSL team will continue to liaise with family support workers and social workers.

Supporting Children in School

We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our students and we will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The head teacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety. We will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on hand washing and other measures to limit the risk of the spread of COVID-19. Where we have concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our DSL or first aiders, we will discuss them immediately with governors.

Peer on Peer Abuse

We recognise that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within the Safeguarding Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/ carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions must be recorded in the usual manner.

Well Being

Mental health has a link to safeguarding and can manifest in behaviour that can be seen as misbehaviour.

Equal Opportunities

Brierley Primary School has universal ambitions for every child, whatever their background or circumstances. Children learn and thrive when they are healthy, safe and engaged. In order to engage all children, cultural diversity, home languages, gender and religious beliefs are all celebrated.

Our curriculum includes a wide range of texts and other resources which represent the diversity and backgrounds of all our children. We believe in 'valuing what the child brings to school' and recognise the importance of supporting a child's first language, not only to foster self-esteem, but to assist in the learning of English.