



COVID-19 reopening arrangements for  
Safeguarding and Child Protection at  
Clophill St Mary's C of E VA Lower School

School Name: St Mary's C of E VA Lower School  
Policy owner: Pam Burraway  
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**1. Context**

From the week commencing 1 June, we expect to be able to welcome back more children to nursery, reception and year one classes.

St Mary’s continues to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

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As more children are welcomed back to school it remains essential that they continue to be safe places for children. Therefore, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children’s workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

This Safeguarding annex is linked into wider opening risk assessments, and Health and Safety risk assessments

## 2. Child Protection

- It is likely that staff may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they see them in person following partial school closures
- If staff have concerns they must immediately follow the procedures set out in the safeguarding policy
- Time will be given so that the DSL and DDSL can fully support staff and children regarding new concerns and possible referrals
- The DSL will ensure relevant safeguarding and welfare information held on all children remains accurate.
- The DSL and DDSL will do all they reasonably can to ask parents and carers to advise them of any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that they should be aware of before a child returns
- DSL (and deputy) arrangements
- Staff will be reminded to be vigilant and report peer on peer abuse
- Staff will be reminded of what they should do if they have concerns about a staff member who may pose a safeguarding risk to children
- Any updated advice received from local authorities regarding children with SEND or who are identified as vulnerable will be followed.

## 3. Designated safeguarding leads (DSLs)

As more children return, it is expected that schools and colleges will have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. If this is not possible, a trained DSL (or deputy) is contactable via phone or online video. In addition, a senior leader could take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site

Role	Days in school	Days contactable by phone
DSL: Mrs. P. Burraway	Monday Tuesday Wednesday	Thursday Friday Weekends in emergency
DDSL: Mrs. K. Bingley	Monday Thursday	Tuesday Wednesday Friday Weekends in emergency
Senior Leader: Mrs. T. Hayes	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	Friday

The DSL (or deputy) should provide support to teachers and pastoral staff to ensure that contact is maintained with children (and their families) who are not yet returning to school or college.

Where possible teachers will try to speak directly to children to keep in touch and help identify any concerns. Teachers will be encouraged (where possible) to make calls from the school site via the school phone. Where teachers use personal phones to make calls, they should withhold their personal number.

DSLs (and deputies) will continue to do what they reasonably can to keep up to date with safeguarding developments, such as via safeguarding partners, newsletters and professional advice groups.

#### **4. Identification of vulnerable children**

Vulnerable children for the purposes of continued attendance during the coronavirus outbreak are those across all year groups who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children 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 and it is determined, following risk assessment (risk assessment guidance), that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
- have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued attendance.

School staff (supported by the DSL or deputy) will continue to work with and support children's social workers, virtual school heads and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners to help protect vulnerable children.

#### **5. Attendance**

Vulnerable children attendance is expected, where it is appropriate for them (that is, where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household, and/or following a risk assessment for children with an EHC plan), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending.

Vulnerable children – regardless of year group – that have not been attending in the recent period are expected to return to nursery, early years or school provision where this would now be appropriate for them to do so.

We will, alongside other relevant partners, work with and support the relevant families and pupils to return to school, where attendance is appropriate. A brief summary of attendance expectations across the different groups of vulnerable children is as follows:

- for vulnerable children who have a social worker, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable
- for vulnerable children who have an education health and care (EHC) plan, attendance is expected where it is determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
- for vulnerable children who are deemed otherwise vulnerable by the school, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable

The DSL will notify social workers where children with a social worker do not attend and will follow up with any parent whose child has been expected to attend and doesn't.

Contact details will be updated.

Parents and carers will not be penalised if their child does not attend educational provision.

Attendance registers will resume from 1 June and school will continue to complete the online Educational Setting Status form which gives the Department for Education daily updates on how many children and staff are attending.

## **6. Staff training and safeguarding induction**

All existing school staff will already have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of KCSIE.

Staff will be made aware of any new local arrangements.

Where new staff are recruited, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction, including an up to date child protection policy and part 1 of KCSIE to read.

## **7. Safer recruitment**

No recruitment is necessary at this time

## **8. Mental Health**

Current events can affect the mental health of children, and their parents, including those who are continuing to work from home. We will ensure that we identify and support children involving support services if appropriate. Teachers will consider mental health and wellbeing when setting expectations of childrens' work.

## **9. Online safety**

Schools will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring are in place to protect children when they are online in the school.

School will continue to remind parents how to keep their children safe online when at home.

Staff who interact with children, will continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns will be dealt with as per the child protection policy.

We are currently not providing "virtual lessons" and will not be providing or joining "zoom" (or any similar alternative) class group or individual pupil sessions.