

Springbank primary School Safeguarding Protocol – COVID-19 Context Response



This annex follows the DFE guidance for schools and further education to support them to keep children safe, including online, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-inschools-colleges-and-other-providers>

This annex should be read alongside Springbank Primary School's Child Protection Policy.

The principles of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 still apply. KCSIE is the statutory safeguarding guidance that we as a school will be continuing to have regard to as per the legislative duty and/or funding agreement requirements.

Context

Following government directions, schools in England were closed on Monday 23rd March 2020 to most children. Childcare was being provided for children whose parents are considered essential workers, vulnerable children under the care of social services and children with an EHCP. Schools have now reopened fully but we remain aware of the possibility of future closures.

At Springbank staffing was reduced to a minimum whilst still ensuring safe ratios on site and providing safety for staff to remain at home at other times or at all times if self-isolating or ill.

All staff are well informed on safeguarding statutory guidelines, identification of risk, recording of concerns and subsequent actions required.

- If any member of staff at Springbank has a safeguarding concern about any child who is attending school they will continue to follow the procedures set out in the child protection policy.
- If any member of staff has a concern about a child working at home based on information they have received they will share this with one of the DSLs in school or via secure email or by telephone.
- All staff have received safeguarding training.
- The school's Child Protection policy and KCSIE Part 1 has been read and discussed by all staff.
- All staff have received annual updates with particular reference to contextual safeguarding concerns.
- All safeguarding concerns are recorded on incident sheets which, when working remotely can be emailed with a protected password.
- Formalised Whatsapp groups, Zoom and Skype have also been set up for discussion and queries.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)

- It is our intention to always have a DSL on site in the form of a senior leader. The DSL remains Julie Vaccari, with the current Deputy being the safeguarding officer : Dawn Wigley. A rota has been established for over the Easter holiday.

However, we accept that in these unprecedented times this may not always be possible due to illness or temporary self-isolation.

To mitigate the risk in this case we have put the following in place:

- There is always a nominated Senior Leader on site who takes the lead on all safeguarding matters and has full communication with a DSL.
- There is a list of DSL's / Senior Leaders with contact numbers who can be contacted for advice at any time. This has been sent to the LA and to the staff team.
- DSLs are all set up to work remotely so they can access information and take appropriate actions as needed.
- There is a DSL who is available on call to attend the site if needed.
- There are LA phased DSL's at local schools under the four phase hub arrangement should our DSL's not be available due to illness.

Vulnerable Children

The school's Vulnerable Children list has been fully reviewed by the safeguarding officer and DSL to identify:

- Children subject to a Child Protection Plan
- Children subject to a Child in Need Plan
- Children for whom an extended period of time at home will present an additional risk to the child
- Children who are Young Carers

In each child's case we have:

- Clarified where the children deemed to be vulnerable will be living during the period of the school's partial closure and discussed with parents the need to respond to calls.
- Reviewed the situation with the child's parent/carer, social worker, and other professionals actively involved with the child.

We have:

a) investigated the balance of risk and protective factors of the child remaining at home, with those of them accessing childcare on the school site.

b) based on the level of need/concern, devised a plan for 'checking in', and this checking in includes a phone call / text /email. The frequency of this checking in will vary from 1-3 days, but contact will be no longer than every 3 days.

- Made and maintained a record of this decision and of any ongoing contact on the school's usual recording system, and ensured that contact details of parents and carers, social worker and any multi-agency professional working with the child are up-to-date and recorded on the school's recording system.
- Our checking-in conversations ascertain:

a) By speaking to the parent/carer that the child is happy and well, if the parent has any concerns or worries, and to clarify who if any in the household is showing symptoms of COVID-19.

b) By speaking to the child, that they appear to be well and that they say that they are well. Ask specifically if they are eating and sleeping and maintaining social distance, and if they have any concerns or worries.

- Where a Head Teacher/Senior DSL is concerned about a child's safety and wellbeing, and where the child is not accessing provision in school, consideration has been given to extending an invitation to the child to access provision at school.
- Where concerns for the safety of a child at home escalate, a referral will be made to Children's Social Care or if at immediate risk, to the Police. Similarly, if we are not able to make contact with the child and their parent/carer, we will try again, review the risk assessment and if appropriate call Children's Social Care and the Police.

EHCP

School actions:

- Risk assessments have been completed by the SENCo as per LA requirement
- Weekly email check-in actioned
- Contact recorded on the DfE sheet
- Record any specific learning resources/support on child's SEND records/chronology

Keeping safe at home and school

- Whilst pupils are learning at home we will continue to remind pupils and parents how to keep themselves safe on line & they will be able to access esafety resources at home via the weekly Internet safety virtual assembly and website links.
- We will continue to signpost parents/carers to online support from the likes of:
- [Childline](#) - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse

Responsibility

Responsibility for overview of all these actions rests with the Headteacher but actions will be delegated to other appropriate staff whilst working both remotely and on site. If the Headteacher becomes unwell and unable to work there are nominated Senior Leaders in charge who take on this overview and actions as required.

At Springbank Primary School we take the safety and wellbeing of all our children and their families very seriously. These are difficult times and we are all adapting rapidly to the changing landscape. We will continue to take actions as per our safeguarding policy and to mitigate risk where school closure makes this even more challenging.