



Yardleys
School

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Child Protection during the COVID-19 measures

Annex to Child Protection policy – Version 1

Adopted by Governors:

Signed:

Date:

POLICY INFORMATION

Date of last review	20/04/20	Review period	
Date ratified by governors		Governors' committee responsible	
Policy owner	Brynley Evans	SLT member responsible	Brynley Evans
Date of next review			

Reviews/revisions

Review date	Changes made	By whom

Dates of linked staff training (if applicable)

Date	Course title	Led by

EQUALITY AND GDPR

All Yardleys' policies should be read in conjunction with our Equal Opportunities and GDPR policies.

Statement of principle - Equality

We will take all possible steps to ensure that this policy does not discriminate, either directly or indirectly against any individual or group of individuals. When compiling, monitoring and reviewing the policy we will consider the likely impact on the promotion of all aspects of equality as described in the Equality Act 2010.

Statement of principle - GDPR

Yardleys School recognises the serious issues that can occur as a consequence in failing to protect an individual adult's or child's personal and sensitive data. These include emotional distress, physical safety, child protection, loss of assets, fraud and other criminal acts.

Yardleys School is therefore committed to the protection of all personal and sensitive data for which it holds responsibility as the Data Controller and the handling of such data in line with the data protection principles and the Data Protection Act (DPA)/GDPR.

Context

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual. Most children are no longer in a school setting and staff numbers have been affected by the outbreak.

The government has consistently emphasised that any '**child should only be sent to school as a last resort**'. Any school provision will be for pupils who are either vulnerable (i.e. attached social worker) or children of key workers whose job roles are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home and where there is no alternative. Our message is the same as the government's guidance in that all families are required to keep their children at home - use of the school can only be offered if there is no safe alternative.

This annex to our Child Protection policy sets out details of our safeguarding arrangements for:

1. Version control and dissemination
 2. Safeguarding priority
 3. Roles and responsibilities
 4. Vulnerable children
 5. Increased vulnerability or risk
 6. Attendance
 7. Reporting concerns about children and staff
 8. Safeguarding training and induction
 9. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff
 10. Peer on peer abuse
 11. Online safety
 12. Supporting children not in school
 13. Supporting children in school
-

Version control and dissemination

This is version 1.0 of this annex. It will be reviewed by our Headteacher as circumstances continue to evolve or following updated Department for Education advice or guidance. It is available on the school website here, www.yardleys-vle.com under Policies and is made available to staff by the email.

Safeguarding priority

During these challenging times the safeguarding of all children at our school – whether they are currently at home or in attendance – continues to be our priority. The following fundamental safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children continue to come first
- if anyone in our school has a safeguarding concern, they will act immediately
- a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy DSL will always be available
- no unsuitable people will be allowed to gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online.

Roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for safeguarding in our school remain in line with our Child Protection Policy.

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video.

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

We will ensure that on any given day all staff in attendance will be aware of who the DSL and deputy DSLs are and how staff can to speak to them.

Role	Name	Email address
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Edmund Lawrence	Edmund.lawrence@yardleys.bham.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Gurpreet Basra	Gurpreet.basra@yardleys.bham.sch.uk
Headteacher	Brynley Evans	Brynley.evans@yardleys.bham.sch.uk
Chair of Governors & Safeguarding Link Governor	Jean Helme	

All of the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Year/Assistant Head of Year are DSL trained.

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 or health care (EHC) 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.

The Designated Safeguarding Team (DSL, SLT & Heads of Year) all have a list of vulnerable students who they are maintaining regular contact with. These telephone calls are recorded on CPOMS.

The school SENDCo is in regular contact with those students who have an EHCP and is consulting with outside agencies such as SENAR.

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. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

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

Senior leaders in our school, especially the DSL (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are, and they have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

We will continue to work with children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

Increased vulnerability or risk

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Staff will be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Where we are providing for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Our staff will be aware of the mental health of children and their parents and carers and will contact the DSL or a deputy if they have any concerns.

Attendance

Where a child is expected in school (from a confirmed list of students) but does not arrive at school, we will follow our attendance procedure and attempt to contact the family. To support this, when communicating with parents/carers, we will confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

Reporting concerns about children or staff

The importance of all staff acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns remains.

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via CPOMS, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher. This will ensure that the concern is received. All staff also have the contact telephone numbers of SLT who are all DSL trained.

The varied arrangements in place as a result of the COVID-19 measures do not reduce the risks that children may face from staff. As such, it remains extremely important that any allegations of abuse made against staff attending our school are dealt with thoroughly and efficiently and in accordance with our Allegations Against Staff Policy.

Staff training and induction

For the duration of the COVID-19 measures, our DSL and deputy DSLs are unlikely to receive their refresher training. In line with government guidance, our trained DSLs and deputy DSLs will be classed as trained even if they cannot receive this training.

All current school staff have received safeguarding training and have read Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education. The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

When new staff are recruited or volunteers join us, they will receive a safeguarding induction in accordance with our Child Protection Policy.

If staff from another setting attend the school site then, in line with government guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not undertake any additional safeguarding checks if the setting providing the current employer confirms in writing that:

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check and,
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there are no safeguarding investigations into the conduct of that individual
- the individual remains suitable to work with children.
- Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of Yardleys' child protection policy 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 our Safer Recruitment policy.

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.

For volunteers we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to engage in regulated activity.

It is essential from a safeguarding perspective that we are aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers are on our school site and that the appropriate checks have been carried out on those individuals. We will continue to maintain our single central record (SCR) during these measures to ensure we have this awareness.

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise that children can abuse their peers and our staff are clear about the school's policy and procedures regarding peer on peer abuse. All peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. We also recognise that abuse can still occur during a school closure or partial closure and between those children who do attend the school site during these measures.

Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse and will follow the process set out in our Child Protection Policy and follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

Online safety

Yardleys 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.

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 Child Protection

Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police. Yardleys will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. A lot of useful information for parents on student safety is available on our website, this includes online safety.

Supporting children not in school

Yardleys is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people. The DSL has identified students that the safeguarding team need to ensure they are in regular communication with and any concerns need to be passed on to the DSL. All calls will be logged on CPOMS.

Supporting children in school

Yardleys 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 handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

Yardleys will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.