



COVID-19: school closure arrangements for Safeguarding (including CP)

Written / reviewed by	R Swaby
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COVID-19: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ADDEDNUM

This Policy applies to all members of the school community: full time and part time staff, Governors, students and volunteers.

Context

From 20th March 2020, the Government asked parents/carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and childcare providers were asked 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.

This addendum of the Friezland Primary School Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements for the following areas:

- Vulnerable children
- Attendance monitoring
- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Reporting a concern
- Safeguarding Training and induction
- Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff
- Online safety in schools and colleges
- Children and online safety away from school and college
- Supporting children not in school
- Supporting children in school
- Peer on Peer Abuse

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 Plans (EHCP).

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 EHCP will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to attend school 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 EHCPs 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 who include our DSLs, know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Friezland School 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 person for this will be: **Miss R Swaby**.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and school will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, the school or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

We will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – we will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. We will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Friezland Primary will notify their social worker.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Friezland School has 1 Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and 2 Deputy DSLs.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Miss Rachael Swaby.**

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: **Miss Rebecca Hill and Mrs Rebecca Moores.**

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- for example in case of illness.

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

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes completing a 'cause for concern form' which can be securely e-mailed to the DSL.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Concerns regarding the Headteacher should be directed to the Safeguarding Governor: **Ms Nick Gainsborough** or the **LADO – Collette Morris** Colette.morris@oldham.gov.uk

Safeguarding Training and induction

All DSL and Deputy DSL have up to date training. On-line refreshers are in place during the school closure period to support effective CPD.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019)' as part of their induction. The DSL will communicate with staff, any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

If staff are deployed from 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 that individual.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's Safeguarding 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 (2019) (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 Friezland School is utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Friezland School 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 at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

Friezland School 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 emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Friezland School will continue to keep the Single Central Record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Online safety in schools

Friezland School 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 (MASH) and as required, the police.

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

Teachers will provide home learning to all pupils not in school, this may include websites or web links, these will be thoroughly checked for safety and appropriate content before they are sent out for pupils to use.

At the start of the school closure period, families were sent an amended E-Safety passport (annual pupil agreement) to remind pupils how to stay safe when on-line whilst working from home. Parents were asked to acknowledge receipt of this.

Supporting children not in school

Friezland School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Risk Assessments have been undertaken for those children classed as vulnerable, who are not attending school. The assessment includes communication plans including: remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods may be considered and recorded.

Friezland School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any risk assessments and care plans.

The Assessments will be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate. The school will share generic safeguarding messages on its website and via the usual weekly newsletter.

Friezland School recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at Friezland School are aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

The school website signposts the following websites to help report online abuse or concerns.

- [Childline](#) - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse

Friezland School is in regular contact with parents/carers and continues to reinforce the importance of children being safe online.

Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

Supporting children in school

Friezland School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

We will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher 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 handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

Friezland Primary will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them. Any additional support for the children will be bespoke to each child and in-line with any additional needs.

Where we have concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders, we will inform the authority and link with one of our partnership DLP schools, if necessary.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Friezland School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, we 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 multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions will be recorded and appropriate referrals made.

Data Protection

The procedures and practice created by this policy have been reviewed in the light of our Data Protection Policy. All data will be handled in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

Data Audit for the COVID-19 Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

What?	Probable Content	Why?	Who?	Where?	When?
EHCP, CP & Safeguarding documents including reviews, notes from meetings, emails etc Phone / email logs between home/school	Name DOB Address Other contact details Personal information Notes & recommendations	For school information & records For Keeping children safe in Education Following statutory guidance (government)	Class Teachers HTs SLT SENCO Governors (where needed) Parents, Social Workers other professionals involved in CP cases	SEND files Child protection files (confidential – locked cabinet in HTs office) Laptops – password protected	Kept in-line with statutory guidance – could be 25 years Some information passed on to Secondary Schools or other schools (In-year transfers)

As such, our assessment is that this policy:

Has Few / No Data Compliance Requirements	Has A Moderate Level of Data Compliance Requirements	Has a High Level of Data Compliance Requirements
		✓

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation / school systems change.