

Appendix 15



COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

January 2021

School Name: Woodhouse Grove School

Policy owner: Mr Anthony Cadman

Date: 30/03/2020

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03/11/2020, v5 13/01/2021

Context

From 5th January 2021 parents were asked 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 and children who are vulnerable and cannot be safely cared for at home.

It is the responsibility of the host school for safeguarding and child protection for all pupils who are attending regardless of whether they are on roll at that school.

All staff working in schools should understand their specific roles in the safeguarding of children.

This addendum of the Woodhouse Grove School Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

Context	2
Vulnerable children	3
Attendance monitoring	4
Designated Safeguarding Lead	5
Reporting a concern	6
Safeguarding Training and induction	6
Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff	7
Online safety in schools and colleges	8
Children and online safety away from school and college.....	8
Supporting children not in school.....	9
Supporting children in school.....	9
Peer on Peer/Child on Child Abuse	10
Mental health and Well-Being.....	10
Staff who bring their own children into school due to a lack of suitable alternative childcare	11
Support from the Local Authority.....	11
The use of personal mobile phones	11

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr Anthony Cadman		Cadman.am@woodhousegrove.co.uk
Deputy DSL	See Page 3 for contact details of Safeguarding team		
Headteacher	Mr James Lockwood		Lockwood.ja@woodhousegrove.co.uk
Safeguarding governor	Mr Martin Pearman		Contact via school
Chair of Governors	Mr Alan Wintersgill		Contact via school
MIST General Secretary	David Humphreys		gensec@methodistschools.org.uk
MIST Safeguarding Adviser	Carolyn Eyre	n/a	carolyn.eyre@btinternet.com (contact via email & Carolyn will call back)

Children’s Services Education Safeguarding Team	0113 3789685
Email: estconsultation@leeds.gov.uk	
Children’s social work service duty and advice team	0113 3760336
Email: childscreening@leeds.gov.uk	
Emergency Duty Team (Out of hours)	0113 5350600
Email: childrensEDT@leeds.gov.uk	
Prevent Team	0113 5350810
Email: prevent@leeds.gov.uk	
LADO service	0113 3789687
Email: lado@leeds.gov.uk	
Leeds Schools Crisis line	0113 3783645

Vulnerable children

As outlined in government guidance published in January 2021 vulnerable children and young people are defined as those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people 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;

- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - o children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services or in the process of being referred to children’s services
 - o adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - o those at risk of becoming NEET (‘not in employment, education or training’)
 - o those living in temporary accommodation
 - o those who are young carers
 - o those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - o care leavers
 - o others at the provider and local authority’s discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself is not a determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

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

Woodhouse Grove School will continue to work with and support children’ 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: Mr Anthony Cadman

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 increased 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 Woodhouse Grove School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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

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

Attendance monitoring

In mainstream schools, all secondary-age pupils who are not expected to be in school during the weeks commencing 4 and 11 January 2021, should be recorded as 'code X'.

Children for whom on-site provision is being provided should be recorded in line with the normal school attendance requirements.

Shielding advice is currently in place in tier 4 areas, and so all children still deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school.

Woodhouse Grove School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – Woodhouse Grove School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

Woodhouse Grove School 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.

Phone calls will be made to the parents/carers in these circumstances.

To support the above, Woodhouse Grove School will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

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

Children on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable list are not expected to attend school.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Woodhouse Grove School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead and a number of Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads – these are named on the front sheet and on page 3 of our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.

We will endeavour to have a trained DSL or deputy available on site at all times when pupils are present. Where this is not the case, a trained DSL or deputy will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example, when working from home.

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.

This might include updating and managing access to the child protection online management system, CPOMS, liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and, if required, liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

Whatever the scenario, it is important that all Woodhouse Grove School staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL or deputy. On each day, staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to contact them.

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

The senior DSL will ensure that operational staff with designated safeguarding responsibilities, access regular supervision, which can be undertaken remotely through electronic communications (e.g. skype, mobile communications etc..)

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 making a report via CPOMS which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff has a concern about a child but cannot access the recording system, they should telephone the Designated Safeguarding Lead and / or a deputy DSL. This will ensure that the concern is received. Staff must not just leave an answerphone message.

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

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the headteacher immediately. If there is cause to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done by telephone. Staff must not just leave an answerphone message. If the headteacher is not contactable, the member of staff should contact either the DSL or the MIST General Secretary.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the MIST General Secretary.

All staff must follow Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) and the local authority model safeguarding model child protection policy (section 10.2) guidance for managing allegations against staff. The case manager must use the local authority designated officer (LADO) notification form (see Appendix 13 of local authority model safeguarding model child protection policy) in order to assess the level of concern. As part of this initial consideration, the case manager should consult with their school's HR Advisor/provider/contact. The completed LADO notification form must be sent to lado@leeds.gov.uk within one working day of the allegation being made.

The education safeguarding team manager (Raminder Aujla raminder.aujla@leeds.gov.uk) will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

Safeguarding Training and induction

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if access to their refresher training delayed. Refresher safeguarding training for all staff can be accessed remotely through <https://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/>

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 staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Woodhouse Grove School they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction and training. The local authority education safeguarding team child protection training offer can be accessed remotely through <https://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/>

Upon arrival, new staff will be issued with the statutory safeguarding documents as outlined in Part One of Keeping Children Safe In Education 2020 including a copy of the receiving setting's safeguarding and child protection policy, Staff Code of Conduct, behaviour policy, children missing education procedures, online safety policy including acceptable use and 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, Woodhouse Grove School name will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of KCSIE 2020.

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 – see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines>

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

Where Woodhouse Grove School are utilising volunteers (including for mass testing), 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. Undertaking COVID testing on children directly who are unable to do this themselves will meet the regulated activity requirement.

Woodhouse Grove School will continue to comply with 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 179 of KCSIE.

Woodhouse Grove School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 182 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 environment, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school or college 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, Woodhouse Grove School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE. All staff employed to conduct mass testing are added to the SCR.

Online safety in schools and colleges

Woodhouse Grove School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online monitoring and filtering system.

Where children are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Children and online safety away from school and college

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.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the school's or college's staff code of conduct.

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

Below are some simple things to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- Unless specifically agreed with the headteacher / senior staff, children will be taught only in groups.
- Where one to one teaching is necessary, this will only be with the explicit written consent of the headteacher, young person and parent(s).
- The DSL, head of department and / or other senior staff must be able to join any virtual lesson at any point.
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household. The Staff Dress Code remains in place during the period of remote learning.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and the background should be blurred or hidden.
- Live sessions should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Our school reserve the right for staff members to record live streamed sessions with pupils as a log of the activity. By joining the learning session parents give permission for this to happen.

- Staff must only use platforms agreed with senior leaders and the IT / network manager to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.
- Peripatetic Teachers have received separate guidelines on their duties stipulating that a parent must be present.

Supporting children not in school

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

Where the Designated Safeguarding Lead has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this communication plan must be recorded on CPOMS as should a record of any contact made.

The communication plan may include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Woodhouse Grove School and its Designated Safeguarding Lead will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider any referrals as appropriate.

In addition, the school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Woodhouse Grove School recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances have a significant potential to affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Teachers and pastoral staff at Woodhouse Grove School will be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Woodhouse Grove School will ensure that if we are unable to care for the child/ren of critical workers, remaining boarders and vulnerable children on site, we will liaise with the local authority and the parent / carer to find a suitable alternative; e.g, at a 'hub' school. In that situation, the DSL will ensure that the DSL of the hub school is made aware of any relevant safeguarding information relating to a child.

Supporting children in school

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

Woodhouse Grove School 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, maximising safety.

Woodhouse Grove School 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 coronavirus.

Woodhouse Grove School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers, remaining boarders and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on their pastoral or safeguarding record as appropriate.

Peer on Peer/Child on Child Abuse

Woodhouse Grove School recognises 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/child on child abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within the school's safeguarding & child protection policy.

The school will listen carefully, and work with the young person, family and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

All concerns and actions taken must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

Mental health and Well-Being

Woodhouse Grove School recognises that the current exceptional circumstances may affect the mental health and well-being of pupils, parents and staff in many different ways. School will ensure that they have details of appropriate support available and this will be accessible for pupils, parents and staff.

These are unusual and difficult times for many people and for some families they may become traumatic times and involve loss and grief. We have provided appropriate home learning for our pupils to complete during this period of time whilst the vast majority of pupils are at home. Although learning is very important, and we want to make the best use of this time, we recognise that the expectations of this may be challenging on some students and families. School will provide reassurance and support to pupils, parents and staff in order to manage these expectations without putting additional stresses and pressure on individuals.

Schools should continue to offer pastoral support to their pupils and seek advice from services when necessary about the universal and targeted offer around mental health and wellbeing. Schools should ensure that there is a plan in place for how any bereavements may be handled, including obtaining support services as appropriate.

Useful contacts/web links:

Child line: 0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk
www.nhs.uk
Mind.org.uk

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing

www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips

www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak

www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/talking-to-children-about-feelings/

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

www.mindmate.org.uk/

Staff who bring their own children into school due to a lack of suitable alternative childcare

In addition to advice issued centrally by the Local Authority on this issue: where these are pre school children schools must also have regard to the Disqualification Regulations 2018: The [Childcare \(Disqualification\) Regulations 2018](#) and [Childcare Act 2006](#), which set out who is disqualified from working with children.

Support from the Local Authority

The Children's Services Education Safeguarding Team will continue to provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable DSLs to carry out their role effectively.

The use of personal mobile phones

In situations where staff have agreed to use their own personal mobile phone to make contact with families, staff should ensure that their personal number is not visible to parents and carers. Staff should not give parents/carers personal mobile telephone numbers as a point of contact. In an emergency situation, where this is deemed essential, specific permission must be granted by an appropriate senior leader.

Staff who require access to their mobile phone during the school day due to: contacting the school Medical Centre, test and trace notifications (for instances such as their own children who may require picking up due to collapsed bubbles etc..) will be required to follow the principles set out in the guidance for safer working practice (12. Communication with children (including the use of technology)).

Mobile phones should be used in line with school guidance and should not be used for non-educational purposes when supervising or teaching children. Staff should take reasonable steps to ensure they are not distracted from their duties by non-urgent alerts or notifications. Where staff receive urgent alerts related to the COVID track and trace NHS App or their own children's school they should follow school procedures to ensure continuity of supervision for any children in their care.