

Safeguarding Protocol – COVID-19 Context Response



Context

Following government directions, schools in England have been closed since Monday 23rd March 2020 to most children. Childcare is being provided for children whose parents are considered essential workers, vulnerable children under the care of social services and children with an EHCP.

Staffing has been reduced to a minimum to ensure safe ratios on site and safety for staff to remain at home at other times or at all times if self-isolating or ill. The school will remain open to our children in order to ensure that the children's routine is as 'normal' as possible and in order to try and stop the cross contamination of the virus.

All staff are well informed on safeguarding statutory guidelines, identification of risk, recording of concerns and all staff have recently completed and passed an online course in Level 1 Safeguarding. Staff have all signed to say that they have read KCSIE Part 1. Staff have also been made aware of what they **must** do if they have concerns about a child.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)

As a school, it is our intention to always have a DSL on site, in the form of a senior leader. However, we accept that in these unprecedented times this may not always be possible due to illness or temporary self-isolation.

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

- There is always a nominated senior person on site who takes the lead on all safeguarding matters.
- There is a list of DSLs with contact numbers who can be contacted for advice at any time. These are displayed in the school office.
- If a DSL is not onsite, a DSL will always be contactable via telephone.

Vulnerable Children

What is the DfE Definition of 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 (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker, including 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 EHC plan should be risk-assessed by their school or college in consultation with the local authority (LA) and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college 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.

We know that schools and other education providers may also want to support other children who are vulnerable where they are able to do so. Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Under Care of Social Workers

Agreed actions Alvaston Infant and Nursery School will take:

- Safe and Well phone call each week from designated person – conversations to be recorded
- Weekly contact via email with social worker to confirm Safe and Well check and/or update on any concerns/changes
- Fortnightly risk assessment to be formulated and reviewed

- Class Teachers to keep regular contact (where possible) with the child's parents/carers

EHCP

School actions:

- Risk assessment to be completed
- Weekly phone call check-in from member of staff
- Record any conversations which may be useful to other DSLs

School Identified Vulnerable Children

These are the children that we know are at risk but are not under the supervision of a social worker.

School actions:

- List to be maintained – DSLs to make and note weekly contact with these families
- Safe and Well phone call each week from designated person on work phone
- Record contact and conversations

Responsibility

Responsibility for overview of all these actions rests with the headteacher but actions should be delegated to other appropriate staff working remotely as far as is possible. If the headteacher is ill and unable to work then the deputy head will liaise with governors and take action as required.

At Alvaston Infant and Nursery 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 more challenging.

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Alvaston Infant and Nursery School
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