



Lymington CE Infant School

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING: COVID-19 ADDENDUM

Name of Unit/Premises/Centre/ School:	Lymington CE (Aided) Infant School
Name of Responsible Manager/Headteacher:	Julia Morris
Date Policy approved and adopted:	April 2020
Introduction	
<p>From 20th March 2020 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.</p> <p>Schools and all 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.</p> <p>This addendum applies during the period of school closure due to COVID-19, and reflects updated advice</p> <p>It sets out changes to our normal child protection policy in light of the Department for Education's guidance Coronavirus: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers, and should be read in conjunction with that policy.</p> <p>Unless covered here, our normal child protection policy continues to apply.</p>	
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Important Contacts

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)	Julia Morris	07962229684 j.morris@lymington-inf.hants.sch.uk
Deputy DSL	Joanne Angel	07860756155 j.angel@lymington-inf.hants.sch.uk
DSL at Lymington Junior School	Dan Twynam Nikki Moosum Karen Bithell	01590 674383 D.TWYNAM@lymington-jun.hants.sch.uk stayandplayholidayclub@gmail.com
Designated member of senior leadership team if DSL (and deputy) can't be on site	Olivia Bull	07833096874 o.bull@lymington-inf.hants.sch.uk
Headteacher	Julia Morris	
Chair of governors	Veronica Crowley	07801529080 veronicacrowley@uwclub.net

1. Vulnerable Children

The Department for Education's (DfE's) definition of 'vulnerable children' includes those who:

- Have a social worker, including children:
- With a child protection plan
- Assessed as being in need
- Looked after by the local authority
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

Lymington Infant 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 The lead person for this will be Julia Morris 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 Julia Morris will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Julia Morris or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England. Lymington Infant School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school.

2. Core Safeguarding Principles

We will still have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

Although we are operating in a different way to normal, we are still following these important safeguarding principles:

- The best interests of children must come first
- If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act on it immediately
- A designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy should be available at all times
- It's essential that unsuitable people don't enter the school workforce or gain access to children
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online

3. Reporting Concerns

All staff and volunteers must continue to act on any concerns they have about a child immediately. It is still vitally important to do this. They should continue to follow the process outlined in Lymington Infant School Safeguarding policy. In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access a reporting form remotely from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This will ensure that the concern is received.

4. DSL (and deputy) Arrangements

All staff and volunteers must continue to act on any concerns they have about a child immediately. It is still vitally important to do this. They should continue to follow the process outlined in Lymington Infant School Safeguarding policy. In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access a reporting form remotely from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This will ensure that the concern is received.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding. This will be Olivia Bull. You can contact her by e mailing o.bull@lymington-inf.hants.sch.uk or by phoning 07833096874

This might include updating and managing access to child protection files and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as 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.

The rota ensures all staff know who is on duty that day. If this changes we will keep all

school staff and volunteers informed by as to who will be the DSL (or deputy) on any given day, and how to contact them.

5. Working With Other Agencies

We will continue to work with children's social care

We will continue to update this addendum where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- Our 3 local safeguarding partners
- The local authority about children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need

6. Monitoring Attendance

As most children will not be attending school during this period of school closure, we will not be completing our usual attendance registers or following our usual procedures to follow up on non-attendance.

The exception to this is where any child we expect to attend school during the closure doesn't attend, or stops attending. In these cases we will:

Follow up on their absence with their parents or carers, by phoning to establish reasons why.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Lymington Infant school will notify their social worker, where they have one

We will be using the Department for Education's daily online attendance form to keep an accurate record of who is attending school.

To support the above, 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.

7. Peer-on-peer Abuse

Lymington Infant 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 abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe In Education and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

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

Concerns and actions must be recorded on the correct forms and appropriate referrals made.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately.

8. Concerns About A Member Of Staff Or Volunteer

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately. Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors:
Veronica Crowley

We will continue to refer adults who have harmed or pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

We will continue to refer potential cases of teacher misconduct to the Teaching Regulation Agency. We will do this using the email address

Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk for the duration of the COVID-19 period, in line with government guidance.

9. Support For Children Who Aren't 'Vulnerable' But Where We Have Concerns

We have the option to offer places in school to children who don't meet the Department for Education's definition of 'vulnerable', but who we have safeguarding concerns about. We will work with parents/carers to do this. These children might be, for example, children who have previously had a social worker, or who haven't met the threshold for a referral but where staff have raised concerns.

If these children will not be attending school, we will put a contact plan in place, as explained in section 10.1 below.

10. Safeguarding For Children Not Attending School

10.1 Contact plans

We have contact plans for children with a social worker and children who we have safeguarding concerns about, for circumstances where:

- They won't be attending school (for example where the school, parent/carer and social worker, if relevant, have decided together that this wouldn't be in the child's best interests); or
 - They would usually attend but have to self-isolate
- These plans include
- How often the school will make contact
 - Which staff member(s) will make contact
 - How they will make contact

We have agreed these plans with children's social care where relevant, and will review them every two weeks

If we can't make contact, we will contact children's social care or the police.

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

- Details of this plan are recorded and a record of contact made is kept.
- The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods are considered and recorded.
- Where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.
- The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

10.2 Safeguarding all children

Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time potentially puts all children at greater risk.

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

Lymington Infant 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, 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.

Lymington Infant School 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.

Where we have concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – will discuss them immediately with our Leadership and Learning Partner.

Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on concerns immediately. In particular, children are likely to be spending more time online (see section 11 below).

11. Online Safety

11.1 In school

Lymington Infant 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.

11.2 Outside school

Where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow our

existing staff behaviour policy, code of conduct, IT acceptable use policy.

Staff will continue to be alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm online, and act on any concerns immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out in section 3 of this addendum.

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 code of conduct.

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

11.3 Working with parents and carers

We will make sure parents and carers:

- Are aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of staying safe online
- Know what our school is asking children to do online, including what sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school
- Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online

We will do this by posting the latest information on our school website.

12. Mental Health

Where possible, we will continue to offer some support for pupil mental health for all pupils. Our family support worker will offer a weekly phone call to offer advice and support to some identified families where this is a significant factor

We will also signpost all pupils, parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

13. Staff Recruitment, Training And Induction

13.1 Recruiting new staff and volunteers

We continue to recognise the importance of robust safer recruitment procedures, so that adults and volunteers who work in our school are safe to work with children.

We will continue to follow our safer recruitment procedures, and part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

In urgent cases, when validating proof of identity documents to apply for a Disclosure & Barring Service check, we will initially accept verification of scanned documents via online video link, rather than being in physical possession of the original documents. This approach is in line with revised guidance from the Disclosure & Barring Service.

New staff must still present the original documents when they first attend work at our school.

Should we need to, we will continue to do our usual checks on new volunteers, and do risk assessments to decide whether volunteers who aren't in regulated activity should have an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check, in accordance with paragraphs 167-172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

13.2 Safeguarding induction and training

We will make sure staff and volunteers are aware of changes to our procedures and local arrangements.

New staff and volunteers will continue to receive:

- A safeguarding induction
- A copy of our Child Protection Policy (and this addendum)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education part 1

13.3 Keeping records of who's on site

We will keep a record of which staff and volunteers are on site each day, by signing a register and that appropriate checks have been carried out for them.

We will continue to keep our single central record up to date.

14. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance is updated every four weeks from the 3 local safeguarding partners, the Local Authority or Department of Education, and by Julia Morris Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

15. Links With Other Policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Child protection policy
- Staff code of conduct
- IT acceptable use policy
- Health and safety policy
- Online safety policy
- Whistleblowing policy

Date reviewed by Governors	2 April 2020
Review Date	2 May 2020
Person(s) Responsible for Implementation & Monitoring	The Governors and Head teacher have responsibility for monitoring this policy.

Signed:

Chair of Governors

Headteacher:

Date: