



Priory CE (C) Primary School: COVID-19 school closure arrangements for safeguarding and child protection

School Name: Priory CE (C) Primary School

Policy owner: Rebecca Fairclough & Pam Keen

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1. Context

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

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children – children who are vulnerable, the children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This addendum of Priory CE Primary School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy contains the details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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Key Contacts

Role	Name	Contact Number	Email address
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Pam Keen	Available to staff	pkeen@prioryceprimary.org
Deputy DSL	Jenny Cunliffe	Available to staff	jcunliffe@prioryceprimary.org
Deputy DSL	Rebecca Fairclough	Available to staff	bfairclough@prioryceprimary.org
Deputy DSL	Jackie Tindall	Available to staff	Jtindall1@prioryceprimary.org
Deputy DSL	Emma Woolliscroft	Available to staff	ewoolliscroft@prioryceprimary.org
Chair of Governors Safeguarding Governor	Edwin Lewis	Available to staff	elewis@prioryceprimary.org

Vulnerable Children

Vulnerable children include those that 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 include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed as 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 will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need 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 with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Senior Leaders, especially the DSL and Deputies 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.

Priory CE Primary 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's Head (VSH) for looked-after and previously

looked after children. The lead people for this will be Jenny Cunliffe (LAC and EHC plans) and Rebecca Fairclough (CP, CIN, EH and other vulnerable groups).

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have any 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 Priory CE Primary School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parents.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of contracting COVID-19 Priory CE Primary School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Priory CE Primary School will encourage our vulnerable children 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 non-attendance.

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

Priory CE Primary School have RAG rated their safeguarding overview and have made arrangements as to how and when they will contact each vulnerable family. Contact can be made via Class Dojo, telephone, email and also by face to face visits.

To support the above, when communicating with parents /carers Priory CE Primary School will confirm emergency contact details 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 their place, Priory CE Primary School will notify their social worker.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Priory CE Primary School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and four Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL) as indicated on page 3.

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL or deputy available on site. Where this is not possible, 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 available a senior leader will assume the responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site.

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

All staff on site will be made aware of who the DSL and deputies are 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.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the Child Protection and 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 contact the DSL or deputy via telephone and email an account of the incident. This will ensure that the concern is received.

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

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children, they should report this immediately to the Head Teacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Head Teacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Head Teacher.

Concerns around the Head Teacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors – Edwin Lewis.

Safeguarding Training and Induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID-19 virus.

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 they miss their refresher training.

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

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Priory CE Primary School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account our 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 the individual

Upon arrival they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of the DSL arrangements.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Priory CE Primary School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment process 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 Priory CE Primary School are 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.

Priory CE Primary 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.

Priory CE Primary 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 challenges 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 school and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaged in regulated activity. As such, Priory CE Primary 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

Priory CE Primary School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

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

Children and online safety away from school

It is important that staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs that 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, to the police.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the code of conduct.

Priory CE Primary School will ensure that any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection (GDPR) requirements.

All work and communication with parents/pupils about work will be made via Class Dojo.

Supporting children not in school

Priory CE Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all of its children and young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child as being 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 the plan will be shared with the DSL and all deputies and a record of any contact will be made on CPOMS.

The communication plan can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits etc. This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

Priory CE Primary School will share safeguarding messages via Class Dojo.

Priory CE Primary 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 Priory CE Primary School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupil's work where they are at home.

Priory CE Primary 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. This will be bespoke for each child and will be recorded on CPOMS.

Supporting children in school

Priory CE Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all of its pupils.

Priory CE Primary 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.

Priory CE Primary 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 the spread of COVID-19.

Priory CE Primary 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. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

Where Priory CE Primary School has concerns about the impact of staff absence, such as the lack of DSL or first aiders we will discuss this immediately with the Governors.

Peer on peer abuse

Priory CE Primary School recognise that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any reports of peer on peer abuse and supporting victims.

Where school receives a report of peer on peer abuse they will follow the principles set out in part 5 of KCSIE and those outlined within the Child Protection Policy.

Priory CE Primary School will listen and work with pupil, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required, to ensure the safety of the child.

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