



Betty Layward Primary School

Keeping Children Safe in Education-KCSIE COVID-19 related changes

The way schools are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same. Our school with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first.

- if anyone in school has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL should be available
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

Designated safeguarding leads (DSLs)

A trained DSL will be available. If this is not possible on site a trained DSL from the school will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example working from home. A senior leader takes responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This might include updating and managing access to child protection files, 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.

Vulnerable children

During the COVID-19 period, local authorities have the key day-to-day responsibility for delivery of children's social care. Social workers and VSHs will continue to work with vulnerable children in this difficult period and should support these children to access this provision. There is an expectation that children with a social worker will attend provision, unless in consultation with the child's social worker and family it is agreed this is not in the best interests of the child.

Senior leaders, DSLs know who their most vulnerable children are and have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edges of receiving children's social care support.

School staff will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children.

Schools ongoing role with children who do not have a social worker:

Our school will make contact with all children not attending school at least once a week, with vulnerable pupils at least twice a week. In some cases, we may make contact more than once.

Staff will speak directly with both the child and a parent/carer. If we are unable to contact a child, we will continue to make contact over 48 hours at different times of the day, or using different contact numbers.

If contact can still not be made we will make a home visit if possible, ensuring that this is risk assessed and operating with Covid -19 guidelines.

If we are still unable to make contact with the family then we will contact the First Access Screening Team (FAST). If the child has an allocated Social Worker the school will contact the social worker directly to minimise risk for unnecessary delay. However, for unallocated children or if the school is not clear whether there is a worker involved then these concerns should come through FAST. Managers in FAST will then assign to education leads or early help hub to follow up.

Attendance

Our school will not complete the usual day-to-day attendance process. We will follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their children and the children subsequently do not attend. Our school and social workers will agree with families whether children in need should be attending education provision – and then follow up on any child that we are expecting to attend, who does not. In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, we will notify their social worker.

We will provide the Department of Education with a daily online attendance form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. This allows for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allows the school to provide accurate, up-to-date data to the department on the number of children taking up places.

Our school will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Staff training and safeguarding induction

All existing school staff have already had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of KCSIE. All staff have been made aware of any new local arrangements so they know what to do if they are worried about a child and DSL arrangements.

Mental health

Our school will ensure appropriate support is in place for children and staff. The senior leadership team recognise that negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances COVID-19, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Teachers should be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

For the well-being of our children we ask that the staff check in with children weekly, via the learning platform, email or telephone.

At school we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site.

Children and online safety away from school

At school we will be doing what we can to keep all of our children safe. In most cases, the majority of children will not be physically attending the school, therefore 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.

When providing education remotely we will refer to guidance outlined by and from the London Grid for Learning on the use of videos and livestreaming to help plan online lessons and/or activities and plan them safely.

Our school will consider the safety of our children when they are asked to work online by using a learning platform that can only be accessed via a user log in organised by staff.

Staff will correspond with children appropriately only via the learning platform, email or telephone. Staff do not use social media or conference calls.

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

The staff will ensure that any activity/communication uploaded is safe to access. The only interacting/correspondence will be between child/parent and teacher. Parents and carers may choose to supplement the school offer with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors.