

Sherington Primary School

Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy



Safeguarding Policy update: *Coronavirus Appendix April 2020*

1. Following the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent school closures, the UK government has produced new guidance for safeguarding in schools. It confirms that, despite closures, schools must maintain their statutory safeguarding role following the guidance in **Keeping Children Safe in Education**. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>
2. Sherington has very strong safeguarding practice and our usual school policy remains in place despite our having very few or no children on site. Our responsibilities regarding harmful and abusive behaviour and online safety are also unchanged. The referral process to RBG children's social care also remain the same.

This appendix therefore details the ways in which our existing policies are adapted for the duration of the virus closure. It will be removed once the school reconvenes.

A. Safeguarding for all

- a. In order to try to continue our safeguarding practice while pupils are at home, Class Teachers will be in daily contact during term time. This will be in the form a daily email with learning tasks.
- b. Checks will be made on vulnerable, LAC and EHCP pupils by Inclusion Manager and Pupil Well-Being Lead. Class Teachers can contact either staff member should a new concern arises for a child. All such checks will be recorded on CPOMS.
- c. The DSL is either on site or easily contactable at all times. The Acting Headteacher (alternate DSL) will be at school each day. In the event this is not possible another member of the Senior Leadership Team will be.
- d. As enshrined in safeguarding guidance, the best interests of the child are our first priority. Most children will have their needs well met at home. Where needs cannot be met at home for certain categories of pupils, then school attendance is available. These categories of pupils are
 - i. *Children of Key workers*. Parents have been asked to contact the school if they require a school place.
 - ii. *Looked after Children*. The LAC designated teacher (DSL or deputy) will agree what is best for the child with carers and social workers.
 - iii. *Pupils with an EHCP*. Many pupils with EHCPs can be looked after at home but school attendance should be available where this is not the case. The Inclusion Manager will communicate with parents and carers to agree what is in the best interests of the child.
 - iv. *Vulnerable pupils*. These are defined as those who have a child protection plan, those who have a social worker and those 'on the edge of social care'. The DSL or deputy will agree what is in the best interest of the child with social workers, parents and carers.
- e. In the unlikely event of the school closing completely the safeguarding processes outlined above remain in place.
- f. We rely on our RBG and Southwark colleagues to work with us, both in Children's Social Care and Early Help.
- g. We rely on our colleagues in the police to work with us where a child is vulnerable because of their criminal activity or exploitation by criminals.

B. Pupils at or from other schools

- a. We do not expect Sherington to be a hub for other pupils and we do not expect to send any pupils to be taught at any other schools.
- b. If this situation changed, we would work with RBG structures and the other schools to safeguard Sherington children or children from other schools on our site. Close links would be made and kept with the relevant DSLs and the standard of provision described in A above would be established and maintained.

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C. New Arrivals

- a. RB Greenwich admissions will continue to allocate new arrivals to schools. We will make certain that we have at least the minimum documentation to ensure any new student is receiving work as do other pupils on roll, and has safeguarding needs met.

D. Student Mental Health

- a. We aim to support the mental health of our pupils while they are at home for this prolonged period. This includes sending mental health guidance and links; these address goal setting, motivation, organisation, mental health support and healthy lifestyles.
- b. There will be daily communication (during term time) from Acting Headteacher promoting emotional well-being through Positive Education.
- c. Class Teachers will email daily (during term time) and will promote the need to remain healthy, both physically and mentally. This will be through the use of Positive Education and encouragement to take part in three physical workouts each day, one focussing on mediation/yoga/mindfulness (these have been prepared for the pupils).

E. Children dying or suffering bereavement

- a. Children who have suffered a bereavement will be offered counselling where that is possible in accordance with school capacity.
- b. If a child dies, friends will be offered counselling where that is possible in accordance with school capacity.
- c. Staff will be offered guidance on dealing with children's bereavement. Any staff bereavement will be dealt with using existing HR and support processes.

F. Online Safety

- a. Online safety resources are available on the school website under the 'Parents' tab.
- b. Our 'E-Safety' page on the school website gives advice on managing online safety at home.
- c. Parents must report any online safeguarding concerns, including peer on peer abuse immediately to the school office
- d. There are links for advice and reporting issues on our website including Childline, CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command) and UK safer internet centre.
- e. While there should not be a need, we are aware that parents and carers may choose to supplement the school online offer with support from online companies or individual tutors. We emphasise the importance of securing online support from reputable providers.
- f. Our E-Safety policy is available on the website on the 'Policies' page.

G. Staff communication with pupils and parents

- a. Staff have clear guidance on communicating with parents and pupils whilst at home. Recommendations and advice is reviewed constantly and revised accordingly.
- b. However, while key staff are self-isolating at home or while the school is closed staff may need to contact vulnerable pupils in order to ascertain their wellbeing or safety. This may involve telephoning from a location not the school site, so staff must follow these new instructions
 - i. Staff must contact the parent or carer, not the child's own phone
 - ii. The safest way to do this is by using a school telephone, either a mobile or on-site landline.
 - iii. Where staff use their own device, they must dial 141 (or use settings which withhold number) before the parent or carer's number to ensure their own number's anonymity.
 - iv. Staff must log each communication (either on contact record and/or CPOMS).

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- c. Where a child is classified as 'vulnerable' because they have a social worker, but where the home does not pose a danger, the strong relationships with parents and carers will continue. Inclusion staff have a caseload of pupils to monitor more closely.
- d. Pupils whom the school know to be vulnerable (those working with Early Help or for whom a TAC process is in place) but who have not been allocated a social worker are contacted in the same way as those who fit the official description.
- e. Pupils believed to be vulnerable but for whom no process is in place are also contacted in the same way as those who fit the official description.
- f. Our strong relationships with parents of children in need remain. Many parents of pupils with difficulty are in daily contact in normal times: this remains the case under these new circumstances.

H. Building, Cleaning and Hygiene

- a. When the school building is open, reception is staffed and so ingress to the building is monitored in the usual way. Attendance of staff and pupils is logged.
- b. Hand sanitiser is in reception and other key areas with an expectation that staff use this on entry and exit. Supplies of sanitiser and soap are distributed and available.
- c. Cleaning and deep cleaning is the responsibility of contracted cleaning company. There is regular communication with staff on site.

I. Reporting to the Local Authority

- a. We will fulfil all the reporting requirements the LA has put in place for the duration.

J. Illness of key safeguarding staff

- a. The HT is responsible for ensuring that all key staff involved in these processes have deputies in case of illness.

K. Breaches of this policy

- a. If any member of staff breaches this policy, they must report it to the Headteacher as soon as possible, so that the mistake can be rectified, and school processes can be improved by reflection on mistakes.