

APPENDIX M:

Begdale House School
Safeguarding Policy Appendix September 2020

Policy Number:	COVID-19.POL.013	Author/Reviewer:	Nicola Kelly
Issue Number:	002	Approver:	Nicola Kelly/Pauline Paterson
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Additional guidance for staff

Written in line with DfE guidance –

Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers

Published 27 March 2020

Full opening: schools

Published 2 July 2020

(This appendix will be reviewed weekly and changes made if guidance from the DfE, Local Authority, Chief of Police or Clinical Commissioning Groups or any updated advice received from local authorities regarding 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)

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) Sept 2019 is statutory safeguarding guidance that schools and colleges should continue to have regard to as per their legislative duty and/or funding agreement requirements.

Whilst acknowledging the pressure that schools and colleges are under, it remains essential that as far as possible we will continue to be safe places for children. This appendix supports governing bodies, proprietors, senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) so they can continue to have appropriate regard to KCSIE and keep their children safe. It outlines how our school might consider safeguarding policy and process differently when compared to business as usual.

The way our school is 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:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first;
- if anyone in the school has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act immediately;
- a DSL or deputy should be available at all times;
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children’s workforce and/or gain access to children; and
- children should continue to be protected when they are online;

Our school will, as far as is reasonably possible, take a whole institution approach to safeguarding. This will allow us to satisfy ourselves that any new policies and processes in response to COVID-19 are not weakening our approach to safeguarding or undermining our Safeguarding Policy.

During this Covid-19 pandemic outbreak, additional staff will receive Designated Safeguarding Lead training to ensure that staff have the requisite knowledge in line with current operational succession plans. At least 4 staff will be trained by 3rd April 2020 and the DSL names and contact details will be updated.

Any concern about a pupil should immediately be reported to the school’s designated safeguarding lead. Where possible, a safeguarding lead will be assigned to each ‘bubble’ identified in the school.

	Name	Position	Telephone Number Email address
DSL 1	Christopher Henton	Headteacher	Head.begdaleschool@keys-group.co.uk
			07891 974 699 01945 860 055
DSL 2	Clare Coleman	Teacher/Tutor	clare.coleman@keys-group.co.uk
			01945 860 055
DSL 3	Robert Hornett	Teacher/Tutor	robert.hornett@keys-group.co.uk
			01945 860 055
DSL 4	Sarah Sisson	Education Support Worker	sarah.sisson@keys-group.co.uk
			01945 860 055

The optimal scenario for our school providing care for children is to have a trained DSL or deputy available on site. It is recognised this may not always be possible, and where this is

the case a trained DSL or deputy from the school will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example working from home.

In addition, a senior leader will take responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site. This might include updating and managing access to child protection files, liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and where appropriate liaising with children’s social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school.

It is important that all school staff have access to a trained DSL or deputy and know on any given day who that person is and how to contact them.

It is acknowledged that face to face DSL training is very unlikely to take place during this period therefore we have undertaken online training for additional roles. For the period that 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 their refresher training date is extended.

The school will face unique challenges at this time. Where reasonably possible, the DSL (or deputy) should consider these in a child protection context.

If staff have concerns about a staff member who may pose a safeguarding risk to children, they must report this to the DSL in school, if the concern is about the DSL it must be reported to the Regional Manager.

Name of Regional Manager	Telephone Number	Email address
Adam Knowles	07885 398 994	Adam.knowles@keys-group.co.uk

All pupils in this school are considered to be vulnerable. Each pupil has an individual plan which identifies the risk and the individual plans are in place to support them during this Covid 19 pandemic outbreak, whether this is in school or in their own homes. Any concerns for pupil’s wellbeing must be immediately reported to the school’s DSL.

If a pupil cannot attend school they will be contacted daily by telephone and home visits will take place at the very minimum weekly. Pupils considered to be more vulnerable will be visited more frequently, the details of which will be included in their individual plans and risk assessments and in agreement with the placing authority. Home visits do not involve entering a pupil’s home, but an “eyes on” visit will take place to ensure that they are still in the family home. Staff should follow the Keys Group protocol outlining how to manage any visits during this period.

Wherever possible, telephone calls to pupils and parents must be made from a school landline number. Staff should not use personal phones unless they need to contact the DSL urgently or in an emergency. Video calling via Skype can be undertaken with more than one member of staff and only via the computers within school or a Keys Group property.

Attendance

From September 2020, the school will complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes in line with the school's Attendance Policy.

Our school/local authority representative and social workers will be agreeing with families/carers to ensure children are attending education provision – and the school or college will then follow up on any child that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

To support this, the school will take the opportunity when communicating with parents and carers to confirm emergency contact numbers 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, the school will notify the social worker/local authority for the individual pupil.

Staff Training

All existing school staff have attended safeguarding training and have read part 1 of KCSIE. It is important for staff to be aware of any new local arrangements so they know what to do if they are worried about a child. Details of these can be found at the end of this document.

Where new staff are recruited they will be provided with a Safeguarding Induction. They will be provided with the school's updated Safeguarding Policy, part 1 of KCSIE and complete the Safeguarding Children in Education course via our E Learning platform - Educare. Any staff member who requires a refresher to their safeguarding training, must also complete this via Educare.

Safer Recruitment and Single Central Registers

The school will continue to follow all the guidance in Safer Recruitment and no member of staff either employed or volunteer will commence work without all the appropriate checks. All staff employed will have details recorded on the School's Single Central Register.

Mental health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, 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.

Staff must read Keys Group guidance '*Good Mental Health and Well-being for Children and Young People*'.

All staff will complete training in Mental Wellbeing for Children and Young people and the school has a designated member of staff trained in Mental Health First Aid to support all students experiencing difficulties.

Support for pupils will include existing provision in the school (although this may be delivered in different ways, for example over the phone) or from specialist staff or support services. You can also read the guidance on [mental health and behaviour in schools](#).

Online Safety

Within the school setting, the system will continue to be monitored and maintained by the Keys Group Central IT department

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the school's Safeguarding Policy and where appropriate referrals will be made to children's social care and as required the police.

It is important to stay safe when working remotely with young people when conducting on line tutoring.

The school will consider the safety of the pupils when they are asked to work online. The starting point for online teaching are the same principles as set out in the school's staff Code of Conduct and Personal and Professional Boundaries Policy (located on RADAR in HR policies). The policy should apply equally to any existing or new online and distance learning arrangements which are introduced.

- Our school will ensure any online learning tools are vetted before being offered to pupils;
- All pupils are to be given the information below to allow them to report concerns to other agencies if they do not want to report them to via the school route;
 - [Childline](#) - for support,
 - [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content,
 - [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse.

There are increased communications with parents during this time which will assist in reinforcing the importance of children being safe online. It will be especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access.

Parents and carers may choose to supplement the school online offer with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors. In the communications with parents and carers, the school will emphasise the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children. Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

Specific advice or guidance from the Local Authority for the school


Specific Safeguarding Procedures Pertaining to Begdale House School. Any safeguarding concerns, reporting, questions or queries should be done through the school DSL, Christopher Henton. In his absence, Clare Coleman, Robert Hornett or Sarah Sisson.

If a referral to CSC is required this will be completed by the DSL, by phone and then email.

Telephone: 0345 045 5203 (8-6pm Monday to Friday) 01733 234 724 (out of hours)

Email: referralcentre.children@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The school's safeguarding record will be updated at the same time.

Staff name	Begdale House Schools Safeguarding Policy Appendix [July 2020] COVID-19.POL.013 – Issue 2	Signature and date
Christopher Henton	Read updated guidance	 14.07.2020
Clare Coleman	Read updated guidance	
Sarah Sisson	Read updated guidance	
Robert Hornett	Read updated guidance	
Mellissa Anderson	Read updated guidance	