



# Sunningwell C of E Primary School

## Temporary Policy Addendum:

### COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection Vale of the White Horse is currently in Tier 4

This Policy addendum is effective from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020

#### Context

From 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020 the parents of primary aged children were asked to keep them 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.

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.

This addendum of Sunningwell C of E Primary School Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

#### Key contacts

Remain as per the School Safeguarding Policy.

Context.....	1
Vulnerable children.....	2
Critical worker.....	2
Attendance monitoring.....	2
Designated Safeguarding Lead.....	3
Reporting a concern.....	3
Safeguarding Training.....	4
Safer recruitment/volunteers.....	5
Online safety.....	5
Supporting children not in school.....	6
Supporting children in school.....	6
Peer on Peer Abuse.....	6

## **Vulnerable children**

Vulnerable children include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child;
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan;
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
  - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
  - those living in temporary accommodation
  - those who are young carers
  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  - care leavers
  - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself is not a determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) 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.

Sunningwell C of E 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. The lead person for this will be: Anita Leech

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 increased risk. Sunningwell C of E Primary School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, remotely if needed.

## **Critical workers**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

## **Attendance monitoring**

Children should be cared for and access online learning at home, if at all possible.

In mainstream schools, all primary-age pupils who are not expected to be in school should be recorded as 'code X'.

Children for whom on-site provision is being provided should be recorded in line with the normal school attendance requirements.

Shielding advice is currently in place in tier 4 areas, and so all children still deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school.

Sunningwell C of E Primary School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – Sunningwell C of E Primary School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

Sunningwell C of E 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.

Phone calls will be made to the parents/carers in these circumstances.

To support the above, Sunningwell C of E Primary School will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, 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, Sunningwell C of E Primary School will notify their social worker.

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Sunningwell C of E Primary School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and three Deputy DSLs.

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:** Anita Leech

**The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are:** Mrs Emily Dell, Mrs Jill Nutt, Mrs Pearl Givinchi

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case the DSL (or a deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video. Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

Sunningwell C of E Primary School staff and volunteers will have access to a trained DSL (or deputy).

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 school Safeguarding Policy.

If a concern is raised out of hours, the staff member should report the concern to Anita Leech or a deputy DSL. If unavailable and the concern is related to Section 47 (child is suffering or likely to suffer Significant Harm) this must be raised directly with MASH or the police. **Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.**

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school **or online**, they should contact the DSL (or a deputy) immediately who should bring this to the attention of the LADO directly.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors or the LADO.

## **Safeguarding Training and Induction**

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020).

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

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of Sunningwell C of E Primary School's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

## **Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff**

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children.

When recruiting new staff, Sunningwell C of E Primary School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (KCSIE).

At present Sunningwell is not utilising volunteers. When voluntary support resumes, 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.

Sunningwell C of E 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.

Sunningwell C of E 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.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the pandemic, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity.

As such, Sunningwell C of E 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 school**

Sunningwell C of E Primary 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. 123ICT will continue to support us in this.

## **Children and online safety away from school**

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.

Sunningwell C of E Primary School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider IF there are virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s, groups only (ELSA sessions between Mrs Jacobs and pupils can be 1:1)
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and the background should be blurred if possible.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms specified by senior managers and approved by 123ICT to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held (except assemblies).

## **Supporting children not in school**

Sunningwell C of E Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children.

Where the DSL/staff members have identified vulnerable children or those who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, Sunningwell C of E Primary School will ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person. This plan will be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website.

Sunningwell C of E 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 are aware of Sunningwell C of E Primary School high expectations of pupils' 'home' work.

## **Supporting children in school**

Sunningwell C of E Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Sunningwell C of E 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.

Sunningwell C of E 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 spread of COVID19.

Sunningwell C of E 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.

Where Sunningwell C of E Primary School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – we will discuss them immediately with governors.

### **Peer on Peer Abuse**

Sunningwell C of E Primary 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 KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

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

Concerns and actions will be recorded, filed and appropriate referrals made.