



COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy annex

School Name: St. Wilfrid's C of E Primary School.

Policy owner: Vicki Strange (Deputy Headteacher)

Date adopted: 6.4.20

Date shared with staff: 20.4.20

This policy is for use during the COVID-19 school closure only

1. Context

From 20th March 2020 government guidance required all schools to partially close for the period of interim COVID-19 arrangements.

Schools and all childcare providers are asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, those with EHCPs where an assessment of need has taken place and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and **cannot be safely cared for at home**.

This annex of the St Wilfrids C Safeguarding and Child Protection policy will take effect during this period of time and will be reviewed as government policy and guidance changes. This policy has been amended in line with Department for Education and West Sussex County Council guidance for Safeguarding in Education.

This annex should be read alongside the following procedural documents which are reviewed regularly and shared with all staff:

'Safeguarding and vulnerable pupil procedures'

'Home learning procedures'

'Phone contact procedures'

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2. Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Vicki Strange	01444 413707	vstrange@stwilfrids-hh.school dsl@stwilfrids-hh.school
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr Simon Hateley Mrs Emma Russell	01444 413707 01444 413707	Head@stwilfrids-hh.school erussell@stwilfrids-hh.school
Headteacher	Mr Simon Hateley	01444 413707	Head@stwilfrids-hh.school
Chair of Governors	Mrs Jill Garraway		jgarraway@stwilfrids-hh.school
MASH WSCC		01403 229900 (Out of Hours – 0330 222 6664)	MASH@westsussex.gov.uk Referral forms via; Adults – https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/raiseaconcernaboutanadult Children’s – www.westsussex.gov.uk/Raiseaconcernaboutachild
LADO		0330 222 6450 (9am -5pm)	LADO@westsussex.gov.uk
Safeguarding in education		0330 222 4030	safeguarding.education@westsussex.gov.uk

3. Staff Resilience – School Safeguarding Team

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 (Page 19, para 65) states; *'During term time, the designated safeguarding lead and/or a deputy should always be available (during school or college hours) for staff in the school or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns. It is a matter for individual schools and colleges and the designated safeguarding lead to arrange adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of hours/out of term activities.'*

Please note this means the DSL may be available for contact on the phone / video call and do not need to be physically in school.

During this period our school will follow all DfE and Local Authority guidance and practice.

DfE

All DfE COVID-19 guidance is found here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

DfE Covid-19 safeguarding update here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

Local Authority

All updates to schools are sent via the Director of Education.

<http://schools.westsussex.gov.uk>

The safeguarding bulletins and guidance are all embedded within the links above, so it is important to read each entire document as they expand in a lot more detail in many of the areas identified below.

These can also be found here;

<https://secure2.sla-online.co.uk/v3/Resources/Page/13966>

4. Capacity of DSL in our school;

Designated Safeguarding Leads continue to be **Vicki Strange, Simon Hateley and Emma Russell**. One member of this team will be available either in school or by email/phone at home at all times. Information about the availability of the DSL will be communicated to all staff weekly. In the event of it not being possible to have a DSL available, then procedures will be delegated to a member of the SLT but statutory safeguarding duties will be covered by someone identified from another school/west sussex council.

All regular duties of the Safeguarding and Child Protection team will remain during this period where possible in order to protect both children on roll but not in school and those in school.

This will include;

- Managing concerns raised
- Updating and managing access to safeguarding and child protection records
Liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy)
- Undertaking risk assessments for all pupils as necessary
Co-ordinating safeguarding provision and checks for all vulnerable pupils on and off site
- Liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need
carry out statutory assessments at the school or college engage with key safeguarding partners when requested in an appropriate and safe manner.

5. Safeguarding Training and Induction

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.

The DSL training dates for our staff are;

Name of staff member	Type of training and date of issue	Role in school
Ms Vicki Strange	DSL – Child Protection Training – 12/3/20	Lead DSL
Mr Simon Hateley	DSL – Child Protection Training – 27/9/18	Deputy DSL
Mrs Emma Russell	DSL – Child Protection Training – 2/7/19	Deputy DSL

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). All staff are aware of WSCC procedures for referral and have access to key contacts to do this.

Procedure for recruiting new staff and volunteers and their induction around safeguarding will be carried out by a DSL as usual. Checks on staff deployed from other settings will be carried out by the bursar or if they should not be available then the head teacher or deputy headteacher. Key information, policy and procedures as outlined in the staff handbook and related appendices will be shared with all staff as usual.

6. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

Our standing policy clearly identifies how we follow procedure to ensure that all adults working in our school are safe to do so. This does not change for the duration of this annex policy.

St Wilfrids 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 (2019) (KCSIE).

7. Disclosure and Barring

St Wilfrids C of E Primary School fully adheres to LA Model Safer Recruitment Policy as outlined here;

<https://secure2.sla-online.co.uk/v3/Resources/Page/1314>

Our school will also amend practice in line with DfE COVID-19 using community volunteers;

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-factsheet-community-volunteers-during-covid-19-outbreak/safeguarding-and-dbs-factsheet-fqs_who

It will also amend practice as outlined by the LA to evidence checkers in school during the Covid 19 period. (as distributed via HR)

8. Vulnerable children

During this period school will refer to the Government and Local Authority guidance to define vulnerable groups.

Where possible all safeguarding and child protection practices stated in our main policy will be adhered to.

Additional or amended practices will be added as further appendices to this policy as appropriate.

The COVID-19 definition March 2020 stated;

Vulnerable children include those who have a Social Worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with an 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 to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Recent Government guidance is that all vulnerable children should be attending school however it is recognised that normal attendance rules do not apply.

St Wilfrids C of E Primary School will continue to work with and support children's Social Workers to help protect vulnerable children, especially those vulnerable children who are not attending school.

Our school will discuss such cases regularly with the children's Social Worker and identify what part the school can play in monitoring a vulnerable child on a case by case basis.

Children Looked After

Our school will work with children's Social Workers and the local authority Virtual School Headteacher (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

The lead person in our school for this is: Ms Vicki Strange

St Wilfrids C of E Primary School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

9. Children's Social Care – RAG Assessment of Open Cases

Similar to the process being advocated for schools in line with the Government Guidance, WSCC Children's Social Care have drawn up the following RAG rating to triage their open cases. During this period St Wilfrids C of E Primary School will fully adhere to these practices.

10. Continued Safeguarding Planning

The procedures for RAG assessment of children to identify and support those vulnerable and with those with safeguarding concerns is outlined in the '[Safeguarding and vulnerable pupils](#)

procedures’.

St Wilfrids C of E Primary School will follow all Local Authority guidance regarding pupils who are not supported by key safeguarding partners but are defined by us as vulnerable pupils due to the current school arrangements.

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.

We will discuss school attendance with parents/carers and where appropriate encourage these children also to attend school.

Where these children are not attending our school will consider, on a case by case basis, how we can monitor and support those children and their families.

11. Supporting children in school

St Wilfrids C of E Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students and will continue to work within all previous relevant policies. Specific procedures for supporting children in school are outlined in the ‘school based teaching team procedures.’

We will refer to all Government guidance and local 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 COVID-19.

12. Supporting children not in school

St Wilfrid’s C of E Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students and will continue to work within all previous relevant policies.

Procedure to support and safeguard pupils not in school, including those vulnerable’ are in line with the DfE guidance ‘Covid 19 safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers’. Details of the procedure are outlined in the school’s ‘Safeguarding and vulnerable pupils procedures’.

13. Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

Parents/Caers are asked to email in their child’s registration to a year group email address daily. This information is recorded and followed up as outlined in the ‘Home learning procedures’

The DfE guidance on attendance, access, registration and coding will continue to be reviewed throughout this period and the school will follow the latest national and local guidance at all points.

Any enquiries that we have will be addressed to Pupil Entitlement Investigation on: Email - PEI@westsussex.gov.uk Tel - 0330 222 8200.

14. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they will continue to follow the process outlined in our full school Safeguarding Policy. Any concerns should be emailed in to the DSL on the dsl@stwilfrids-hh.school email address. Full procedures are outlined in the 'Safeguarding and vulnerable pupils procedures'.

15. Online safety in schools and colleges

Procedures for ensuring online safety for staff and pupils are guided as usual by the St Wilfrid's Online safety policy. This has been shared with all staff.

16. Children and online safety away from school and college

Procedures for ensuring online safety for staff and pupils away from school are guided by the 'St Wilfrid's online safety policy' which has been shared with all staff. Specific procedures are outlined in the 'Safeguarding and vulnerable pupils procedures', the 'Home learning procedures' and the 'Phone contact procedures'

Information for pupils and parents to support them with staying safe online and signposting them to specific information and support has been shared with parents and is available in the school website.

All updated and ongoing guidance from the DfE and Local Authority on these matters will be followed.

17. Support from the Local Authority

The WSCC Safeguarding in Education Team will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively.

The SiE team will also provide guidance and resources as appropriate to support schools with all areas of safeguarding.

Phone - 0330 222 4030

Email - safeguarding.education@westsussex.gov.uk

<https://secure2.sla-online.co.uk/v3/Resources/Page/13966>