

Addendum

COVID-19 Arrangements for

Safeguarding and Child Protection at

Wellingborough Nursery Schools Federation

(Croyland Nursery School and Highfield Nursery School)

during COVID-19

Date: 09.04.2020

Date shared with staff: June 2020

This is a COVID -19 addendum to the main Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and should be read in conjunction with the main policy.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 remains in force and has been supplemented by additional interim guidance from the government titled “**Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers**” Published 27 March 2020.

This addendum is based on the additional interim guidance for COVID-19 operations.

1. Context

- On 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, as part of the response to COVID-19. Schools and 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. **From June 1st all schools opened to specific year groups including early years provisions. WNSF continues to provide a limited amount of spaces for children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. WNSF also provide a limited amount of spaces for working parents.**
- The way WNSF is currently operating in response to coronavirus is fundamentally different, however, our safeguarding principles in accordance with ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ (KCSIE) 2019, remain the same:
 - the best interests of children will always come first

- if anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy DSL is available
- 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
- This addendum of WNSF Child Protection and Safeguarding policy contains details of any amendments to our existing safeguarding arrangements.

2. Key School Contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Lyndsey Barnett	07904515482	head@croyland-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Jo Newman	07948535110	senco@croyland-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Katie Buchanan		teacher@highfield-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Jodie Goodwin	07824666337	senco@highfield-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Paula Stafford Jo Summers Angela Whitney	07511952374 07921250425 07954098918	paulas@croyland-nur.northants.sch.uk jop@croyland-nur.northants.sch.uk angelaw@croyland-nur.northants.sch.uk
Headteacher	Lyndsey Barnett	07904515482	head@croyland-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk
Chair of Governors/ Safeguarding Trustee	Cath Draper	07716759212	Cathdraper38@gmail.com

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead

- WNSF has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Lyndsey Barnett**
- The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: **Jo Newman, Katie Buchanan, Jodie Goodwin, Jo Summers, Angela Whitney and Paula Stafford**
- Ideally a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available on site. However if this is not possible a trained named DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.
- All school staff and volunteers will have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). Every day onsite staff will be made aware of who that person is and how they are to be contacted. This information will be placed **in the communication book** as a constant reminder?
- The DSL will continue to engage with social workers and attend all multi-agency meetings which can be done remotely.

4. Vulnerable children-Ensuring that vulnerable children remain protected is a top priority.

Vulnerable children include:-

- Children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans
- Children who have a Child Protection Plan and
- Children who are looked after by the Local Authority and
- Children assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.
- Young carers
- There is a government expectation that children with a social worker will attend a 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. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, professionals will talk through these worries with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

- Children with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents. A decision will be made about whether they should continue to attend school in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary and safe to do so, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.
- WNSF has the flexibility to offer a place to other learners who may also be considered vulnerable by the setting. Please contact *Jodie Goodwin* to discuss this further.
- If vulnerable children are not attending school, we will regularly keep in contact by telephone/skype/home visit with them.
- WNSF will continue to work with those professionals involved with children and share relevant information with them such as social workers, early help workers and virtual school heads (VSH). This is especially important during the COVID-19 period. This will include information about attendance and any welfare concerns. **WNSF have risk assessed face to face CIN and CP meetings. These meetings will be held in Croyland Nursery School hall; a large ventilated room**
- If there is a safeguarding concern, this will be shared with the relevant professional as soon as possible.
- WNSF will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.
- Where a child classed as vulnerable does not take up the offer of a school place the school will continue to have oversight of the safeguarding needs of that child whilst they are not attending school. This includes:-
 - Minimum weekly contact with the child and their family, (frequency determined by an individual risk assessment) **A monthly tracker will be used to log any contact with vulnerable children**
 - liaison with multi agency professionals involved with the child and
 - notifying the Social Worker, Virtual School or EHC Worker of outcomes of contact
 - **Where identified for parents any face to face meetings will be held in an open place e.g. local park with the parent only**

DSL's will continue to meet weekly – through the use of Zoom to review the vulnerable families risk assessment and the support provided.

5. 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.

- *WNSF* and social workers will agree with families/carers whether children in need should attend and *WNSF* will follow up with family/carers where a child/children are supposed to be attending but do not.
- In all circumstances where a vulnerable child/children do not take up their place, or discontinues, *WNSF* will notify their social worker and EHC worker where relevant and follow up with the family/carer.
- *WNSF* will also follow up with families/carers that have arranged a place for their child/children, namely critical workers or children that are considered vulnerable but not open to any agencies and do not attend.
- Staff will continue to work with and support children' social workers to help protect vulnerable children.
- *WNSF* will complete both the NCC and government form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school/college as requested by the DfE in the guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): attendance recording for educational settings.

6. Reporting a concern

- All staff will continue to look out for any signs that indicate a child may be at risk, both on and off site, including online.
- If a member of staff/volunteer has any safeguarding concerns about a child, this will be reported to the DSL as soon as possible. Staff members from Highfield Nursery School will be informed of where to document concerns and the DSL's on site.
- If the concern is urgent, the member of staff/volunteer will speak to a DSL in person or via phone/video call if they are not on site, immediately.
- In the event a member of staff or volunteer cannot make contact with a DSL, this will not delay them taking immediate action to safeguard a child in line with school procedures.
- Concerns will be recorded using existing *school* safeguarding processes as outlined in our Child Protection Policy.
- Learners are encouraged to report concerns via existing *school* systems, or to a trusted adult at home.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to report concerns via existing *school* systems.
- Where staff are concerned about an adult working with learners, they should report the concern to the headteacher.
- If there are concerns about any member of staff or volunteer, the LADO service will be consulted.
- Concerns around the headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors.

7. Safeguarding Training and induction

- It is very unlikely that DSL training will take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID19 virus.
- 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.
- Formal DSL refresher training will be undertaken as soon as possible. DSLs will continue to keep their knowledge up to date through other means.
- All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so all staff know what to do if they are worried about a child.
- Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter *WNSF*, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.
- Staff will be made aware if any processes have changed with the sharing of this addendum and the DSL will communicate any changes to local processes directly.

- All new staff and volunteers will have an induction provided via the DSL and will be provided with a copy of the *WNSF* Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Covid-19 Addendum.

8. 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, *WNSF* 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).
- In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.
- Where *WNSF* are utilising volunteers, 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.
- If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account 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
- In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.
- *WNSF* 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. Full details can be found in paragraph 163 of KCSIE
- *WNSF* 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.
- During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk
- *WNSF* will continue to update the single central record and will log details of any risk assessment carried out on volunteers and temporary staff from other educational institutions.

9. Supporting children in school

- *WNSF* is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.
- *WNSF* will 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.
- *WNSF* 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.
- *WNSF* 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. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded in their individual record books.

10. Record Keeping

- As per paragraph 48 of KCSIE, all concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. If in doubt about recording requirements, staff should discuss with the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy).
- Review open cases regularly particularly during the duration of the partial school closure
- During school closure, staff at *WNSF*, will continue to use the vulnerability tracker and running record of concerns/contact with the family and complete shared concerns.

- When updating documents at home ensure that the screen **is not visible in non-secure areas**, for example, at home where other family members may be able to see it.

11. Peer on Peer Abuse

- *WNSF* continues to recognise and respond to cases of Peer on Peer abuse by considering each incident on a case by case basis and basing any intervention on usual processes outlined within KCSIE 19.
- *WNSF* recognises that the current circumstances and the changeable nature of current Government guidance may mean that the *school/college* may need to adapt elements of the process in some cases to ensure that they are able to respond in line with Government advice when required.
- The DSL will continue to consult as appropriate with multi-agency professionals to ensure that children's safety and wellbeing is not compromised when incidents of peer on peer abuse are brought to their attention.

12. Online safety in schools and colleges

- *WNSF* expectations with regards online behaviour and education when using school provided devices or internet access on site will continue to be implemented in line with existing policies. Any concerns regarding onsite online behaviour or use will be responded to in line with existing policies.
- *WNSF* will continue to provide a safe online learning environment where learners use school provided devices on site; appropriate filtering and monitoring will continue to be implemented.
- Learner's internet use will be supervised by staff according to their age and ability and learners will be directed to use appropriate online resources and tools.

13. Supporting children not in school

- *WNSF* will continue to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people that remain on the *school/college* roll
- All DSLs will continue to identify those vulnerable children that would benefit from Early Help as identified in KCSIE 2019, provide pastoral support and consider whether they would benefit from external support also.
- There will be clear plans around how best to communicate with learners who are identified as vulnerable, as well as those whom DSLs have concerns about who do not receive a statutory service.
- This could include telephone contact and/or doorstep visits. The way that this communication is managed is at the discretion of the DSL.
- *WNSF* and the DSL will work closely with all relevant agencies and professionals regarding safeguarding a child who is not on site.

- Any plans will be reviewed regularly and if concerns become significant, the DSL will consider any requests for support if considered appropriate.
- *WNSF* recognises that this is a difficult time for children and young people who consider *school* as a safe place and the current situation may impact on learners', staff and parent/carers mental health.
- The *school* will utilise its website and social media presence to ensure that safeguarding messages are shared with children and their families. This will include links to appropriate services and resources that are aimed at supporting them throughout this period.

14. Online safety away from school and college

- All staff will continue to look out for any signs that indicate a child may be at risk online and will report and respond to concerns in line with the Child Protection Policy addendum.
- Where necessary, referrals will be made to LADO, children's social care and as required, the police.
- Learners are encouraged to report concerns to a member of staff or a trusted adult at home. Where this is not possible, additional support can be accessed online via:
 - Childline: www.childline.org.uk
 - UK Safer Internet Centre's 'Report Harmful Content': <https://reportharmfulcontent.com>
 - National Crime Agency Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (NCA-CEOP): www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre
- Parents/carers are encouraged to ensure children are appropriately supervised online and that appropriate parent controls are implemented.
- All communication with learners and parents/carers will take place using *school* provided or approved communication channels; for example, *schools* provided email accounts, admin@croyland-nur.northants.sch.uk; jop@croyland-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk and teacher@highfield-nur.northants.ech.uk. **The school will also use social media, the website and text messaging as a means to share resources.**
- *WNSF* will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.
- Staff and learners will engage with remote teaching and learning in line with existing behaviour principles as set out in our *school behaviour policy/code of conduct*.
- When delivering remote learning, staff at *WNSF* will:
 - Only use online tools that have been evaluated and agreed by leadership.
 - Ensure remote learning activities are planned in accordance with our curriculum policies, taking learner needs and technology access into account.
 - Where possible, pre-record content.

- If remote learning is taking place 'live' using webcams or chat facilities, staff and learners will ensure a professional environment is maintained. This means:
 - Staff will record the length, time, date and attendance of any online lessons/contact held or made.
 - Live sessions will involve at least two members of staff where possible.
 - Sessions will not be delivered in any 1:1 situation, unless pre-approval has been given by the DSL and/or Headteacher and the session is auditable.
 - Staff will record any online lessons so they can be audited or accessed later if required; learners and staff should be made aware that lessons are being recorded.
 - Staff will agree online behaviour expectations with learners at the start of lessons.
 - Staff will revisit our Acceptable use of Technology Policy with learners as necessary.
 - All participants will wear suitable dress, use professional language, and ensure backgrounds of videos (live or pre-recorded) are neutral and appropriate.
 - Staff and learners should ensure personal information and/or, inappropriate or unsuitable personal items are not visible.
 - Where possible, other household members should not be in the background or in shot; if this unavoidable, they should follow appropriate language and behaviour expectations.
 - If live streaming, staff will mute and/or disable learners' videos and microphones, as required.

15. Additional Guidance on Use of Hub and Cluster Schools

It is the Receiving School that is responsible for:-

- Providing a safe environment
- Keeping children safe
- Safer recruitment of staff and volunteers
- Completion of risk assessments
- When children are moved from one setting to another it is the **receiving setting** who take on responsibility for the safeguarding of that child **unless it has been agreed that a chaperone from the sending school is to accompany the child and remain on site at all times.**

Relevant information on the child should be shared **prior to transfer** including the reason for vulnerability. At a minimum the **receiving setting** should receive:-

- **THE EHCP**

- **THE CIN or CP Plan**
- **The name of the child's Social Worker and contact arrangements**
- **For LAC/PLAC-the PEP and name of Virtual School Head**
- **Details of any medical needs**
- **Emergency contact details**
- **Details of any parents/carers or others who should not be collecting the child; for example if there are safeguarding concerns**

It is recommended that where a child has transferred from their own school to a different/'Hub' school during this time, and there is no member of staff present from the school that the child regularly attends, then consideration is given to collection arrangements for such children. For example, it may be pertinent to consider the use of a password, agreed between home and the child's own school, for parents/carers to use when they collect from the different/'Hub' school, so as to ensure that the situation has been appropriately risk assessed and managed. For new children starting the school during this time we will ensure parents have met the majority of staff on each of the shifts.

This information should be readily available for all vulnerable children should there be a need to urgently close school premises.