

Calmore Junior and Infant Schools January 2021 - Safeguarding Response to COVID-19

There have been significant changes within our setting in response to the outbreak. Many young people are now at home and staffing is likely to be significantly affected through illness and self-isolation.

Despite the changes, the school's Child Protection Policy is fundamentally the same: **children and young people always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the DSL in line with our established safeguarding procedure.**

This annex sets out some of the adjustments we are making in line with the changed arrangements in the school and following [advice from government](#).

The current school position and local advice

Calmore Junior Schools is currently closed but we are open for the children of key workers, children with EHCP and vulnerable children. All staff are in teaching classes of up to 15 children in their year groups.

All Reporting arrangements

The school arrangements continue in line with our safeguarding policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Cathy Ingram.**

The Deputy DSL is: **Nick Darch**

All are contactable through school email or mobile phone numbers

The school's approach ensures the DSL or a deputy is always on site while the school is open. In the unusual circumstance this is not possible the DSL or Deputy DSL will be contactable and the Head teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team will email all staff by 9am to advise they are acting in an on-site safeguarding role together with contact details for the DSL or Deputy DSL.

Staff will continue to follow the Child Protection procedure and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any child, whether in school or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Children's services may be affected by the impact of the virus on staff and an increased demand for services. Where a child is at risk of significant harm there may be a need to be persistent in referring concerns to the local authority. The arrangements for contacting children's services are:

01329 225379 or email csprofessional@hants.gov.uk

Vulnerable groups

- Previously Looked After Children
- Children subject to a child protection plan or CIN
- Children who have a social worker
- Children with an EHCP
- Children on the edge of social care involvement or pending allocation of a social worker

These children will be in school where possible. If a parent of a vulnerable child chooses to keep their child at home, extra weekly calls will be made by SLT in addition to the weekly call made by the class teacher and a member of SLT will call round to the house to check on the children in person too.

Attendance

The school is following the [attendance guidance issued by government](#). Where a child is expected and does not arrive the school will follow our attendance procedure and make contact with the family. If contact is not possible by 9:30am the DSL must be informed. The DSL will attempt a range of methods to contact the parent but if necessary arrange a home visit by the school or another appropriate agency. A risk assessment will be undertaken to consider how to manage the implications of COVID-19 alongside other risks perceived to the child. The risk of COVID-19 **does not override** the duty on the school to ensure children and young people are safe.

Staff will be aware of increased risk

The pressures on children and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, poverty, and financial or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in the setting of any work for children to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning – see below). Staff will be aware of the mental health of both children and their parents informing the DSL about any concerns.

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a school closure or partial closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer on peer abuse including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision. Extra care should be taken where groups have mixed age, developmental stages, are attending other schools as an interim measure and similar. When making contact with these families our staff will ask about relationships between learners.

We also address the issue of peer-on-peer abuse in our remote learning curriculum and weekly update letters .

Risk online

Young people will be using the internet more during this period. Staff will be aware of the risk that professional boundaries could slip during this exceptional period and been reminded of the school's code of conduct and importance of using school systems to communicate with children and their families.

Parents and carers have received information about keeping children safe online with peers, the school, other education offers they may access and the wider internet community. We have set out the school's approach, including the sites children will be asked to access and set out who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online. Parents have been offered the following link:

[Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements young people could be at greater risk of abuse from staff or volunteers. We remind all staff to maintain the view that 'it could happen here' and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to the safeguarding team.

The arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged:

Mark Blackwell 01962 876364.

If necessary, the school will continue to follow the duty to refer to DBS any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, and to the Teacher Regulation Agency in line with paragraph 166 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 using the address Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk.

New children at the school

Where children join our school from other settings we will require confirmation from the DSL whether they have a Safeguarding File or SEN statement/EHCP. This file must be provided securely **before** the child begins at our school and a call made from our DSL or a deputy to the placing school's DSL to discuss how best to keep the child safe. In some unusual circumstance this may not be possible. Information provided must include contact details for any appointed social worker and where relevant for the Virtual School Head. Safeguarding information about children placed in our school will be recorded on our safeguarding system, will be securely copied to the placing school DSL and will be securely returned to the placing school on completion of the child's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the child.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment in respect of any new information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know about the information. This will be recorded on our safeguarding recording system.

Meetings of professionals for safeguarding purposes

The majority of meetings are now happening via telephone discussions or a remote platform. These include:

- Child protection conferences and Child in Need meetings
- Return interviews from missing episodes (case by case basis)
- LADO strategy and review meetings (case by case basis)

Ensure that whilst participating in calls that are likely to include sensitive information you are careful about who can hear the information being shared, and share any written information securely, in line with any amended setting policy and processes.

Phoning home through voice calls or video calls to speak to children (where not in an existing policy)

- Use work phones if possible.
- Make sure you speak to the child too and not just their parents.
- Do this through parents' phones only and in all cases make sure parents are aware and agree if the call is to the child.
- Call during school hours as far as possible.
- Make sure someone else at school is aware and keep a record of the date and time of each call.
- Have a parent with the child and have the phone on speaker phone.
- Either use an app like 3CX that will route calls through your school's number rather than your own, or block your number so parents don't see it (141).
- Give parents an expected time you'll be calling if you're blocking numbers, so they're more likely to pick up.
- If possible, have another member of staff on the call. If this isn't possible, record the call, with parents' permission. Explain you're recording for school records only.

Single Central Register during COVID-19 for additional staff or volunteers

- Set up a separate tab on your Single Central Register to record any additional or changed staffing or volunteers for the period to cover COVID19.

Induction of new staff/volunteers

- Induction for any new staff/volunteers should continue.

- Induction should also now include any changes to “business as usual” given each schools context and staffing arrangements especially for contact with DSL’s which may need to be updated regularly.
- It should also ensure that staff code of conduct for working on-line live and in communications is up to date and all staff are aware of the processes they should follow when working remotely from school and remotely on-line.

Further Online Support for Parents and Carers

- **Thinkuknow** provides advice from the **National Crime Agency (NCA)** on staying safe online.
- **Parentzone** and the **NCA** providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations.
- **Childnet** offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age.
- **Internet matters** provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices.
- **London Grid for Learning** has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online.
- **Net-aware** has support for parents and carers from the **NSPCC**, including a guide to social networks, apps and games.
- **Let’s Talk About It** has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation.
- **UK Safer Internet Centre** has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services.

Bullying or abuse online

- **Anti-Bullying Alliance** for children who are being bullied.
- **Tootoot** to provide a confidential route for pupils to report bullying or abuse.

Cathy Ingram Jan 2021