

AMEND

COVID-19 arrangements for safeguarding and child protection



Date: Jan 2021

This is in line with DFE guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

1. Context

Following the 4th January 2021 announcement, parents were asked to keep their children at home again, 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 and vulnerable children.

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

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2. Key contacts

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is: **Mr Ben Stephenson (Headteacher)**
- The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Mr Arran Langdon (Y5/6 teacher)**
- The Single Point of Contact for the Prevent agenda is: **Mr Ben Stephenson (Headteacher)**
- The name of the Designated Teacher for Children in Care is: **Mr Ben Stephenson (Headteacher)**
- The named Member of the Governing Body with responsibility for safeguarding is: **Mrs Sheena Morton**

3. Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with 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.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, 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.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

The Headteacher and 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.

Nanstallon 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 and the local authority for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be: Ben Stephenson.

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 risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Nanstallon School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. We as a school will ensure that all professionals involved with these vulnerable children, (e.g. social workers, SEND case workers, Early Help worker etc) are fully informed around the current attendance of the child (attending school or not) and if not attending school the arrangements that we have put in place around safeguarding this child.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Nanstallon School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Nanstallon School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

4. 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.

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

Nanstallon 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. This will be via a telephone conversation.

To support the above, Nanstallon 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, Nanstallon School will notify their social worker.

The Department for Education has introduced a [daily online attendance form](#) to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. This allows for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allows schools to provide accurate, up-to-date data to the department on the number of children taking up places.

The attendance data will also be shared with the Local Authority attendance team.

5. Designated Safeguarding Lead

Nanstallon School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

A member of the DSL team will always be available during school hours. The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a designated member of staff will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

It is important that all our staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of that person is and how to speak to them.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

6. Reporting a Concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via MyConcern which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access our normal reporting systems from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Headteacher. This will ensure that the concern is received.

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, they should continue to follow our normal procedures and alert the headteacher immediately. The headteacher will follow normal allegation management procedures.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Sheena Morton.

7. Safeguarding Training and induction

All DSL training has been suspended and it is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 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.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

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 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

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, Nanstallon 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).

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.

There will be no volunteers in school.

Nanstallon 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. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE, in line with advice from the LADO where appropriate.

Nanstallon 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 current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried

out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Nanstallon School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

9. Online safety in schools

Nanstallon 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.

10. 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.

Nanstallon 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 when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams/ virtual forums (e.g. Zoom) are involved:

- 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.
- The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms provided by Nanstallon School to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record, the time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

All staff at Nanstallon School will be reminded of the following policies:

- Staff code of conduct
- Acceptable users' policy

11. Supporting children not in school

Nanstallon School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits, postcards home. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Nanstallon School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Nanstallon 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 at our school need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Nanstallon 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.

12. Supporting children in school

Nanstallon School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Nanstallon 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.

Nanstallon 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.

Nanstallon School School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children as well as Year six children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

13. Peer on Peer Abuse

Nanstallon 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 young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on MyConcern, and appropriate referrals made.

All staff will be sent this additional policy to read and to email confirming they have read and understood the content.

If staff are working from home they will be asked to email confirming the above.