



WOOTTON PARK

'Ipsam quod faciendum est diutius'

Title	Addendum for Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (COVID-19)
Date	Updated March 2021
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Context

On Monday 22nd February 2021, The Prime Minister announced the government’s roadmap to cautiously ease lockdown restrictions in England. This included a direction that from 8 March 2021, all learners should attend school.

Wootton Park School will continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance keeping children safe in education (as amended, Jan 2021).¹

We will ensure that where we care for learners on site, we have appropriate support in place for them.

We will take advice and work with the local safeguarding partners.

We 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 coronavirus.

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

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954314/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2020_-_Update_-_January_2021.pdf

Key contacts

Remain as per the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989², 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 at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - 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 learners and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Wootton Park 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 virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this is Claire Woodbridge, SENDCo.

In circumstances where a parent/carer is hesitant about, or does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and/or the school will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent/carer.

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

Wootton Park School will encourage all learners to attend school.

Attendance monitoring

We expect all Learners to attend school.

Parents or carers are expected to contact the school on the first day of the illness and inform us of the reason for absence so that the correct attendance codes can be used in every case of absence. We expect parents or carers to make contact to make us aware of the status of any COVID-19 tests that have become necessary and to update the school on the welfare of the learner.

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/17>

From 8th March 2021, we will record attendance in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended)³ for all learners.

A small number of learners will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms or have had a positive test result
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

The advice for learners who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. They are advised not to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally.

For learners self-isolating or quarantining or shielding – we will use code X.

In compliance with the Remote Education, Temporary Continuity Direction⁴ will provide remote education to learners who are unable to attend school because they are complying with government guidance or legislation around coronavirus (COVID-19).

Also, we will offer pastoral support to learners who are:

- self-isolating
- shielding
- vulnerable (and off-school)

The Department for Education expects schools to grant applications for leave in exceptional circumstances. This should be recorded as code C (leave of absence authorised by the school) unless another authorised absence code is more applicable.

Where learners are not able to attend school, as they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19), the absence will not be penalised.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a learner, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, this includes ensuring My Concern is up to date, which can be done remotely.

If a concern is raised out of hours, the staff member should report the concern on My Concern and alert the DSL/Deputy DSL via e-mail.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with learners in the school, they should notify the DSL immediately. If the concern is around the Principal, this should be directed to the Chair of Governors via email.

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/1751/contents/made>

⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/923539/Remote_Education_Temporary_Continuity_Direction_-_Explanatory_Note.pdf

Safeguarding Training and induction

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL will 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, or new volunteers enter the school, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

When recruiting new staff the 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) (as amended, Jan 2021).

Where the school are utilising volunteers for the purpose of testing, 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 in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.⁵

Volunteers

Wootton Park School may use volunteers to assist with COVID-19 testing.

Under no circumstances will a volunteer, in respect of whom no checks have been obtained, be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Existing volunteers in regulated activity do not have to be re-checked if they have already had a DBS check (which includes barred list information).

Supervision must be:

- by a person who is in regulated activity.
- regular and day to day; and
- reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children.

In appointing volunteers, the school will continue to follow safer recruitment processes.

Children and online safety away from school

It is important that all staff who interact with learners, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

⁵ Paragraph 183. Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (as amended, Jan 2021)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954314/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2020_-_Update_-_January_2021.pdf

Wootton Park School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Supporting learners not in school as they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19)

Wootton Park is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its learners

Where the Safeguarding Team has identified a learner to require additional support, or the learner would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they will ensure that weekly communication is in place for that learner with a significant need, all communications will be recorded on My Concern.

Wootton Park school recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of learners and their parents/carers.

Supporting learners in school

Wootton Park School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its learners.

Wootton Park School will continue to be a safe space for all learners to attend and flourish.

Wootton Park School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing⁶ and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19.

Wootton Park School will ensure that appropriate support is offered to all learners with respect to their mental health.

Elective Home Education (EHE)

Wootton Park School will encourage parents/carers to send their children to school, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Where an application is made the school will consider whether a parent/carers decision to educate at home gives greater cause for concern compared to remaining in school.

Where we feel that there is additional cause for concern the designated safeguarding lead will then consider making a referral to the local authority in line with existing procedures. This will happen as soon as the school becomes aware of a parent/carers intention, or decision, to home educate.

Wootton Park School will work with local authorities and, where possible, coordinate meetings with parents to seek to ensure EHE is being provided in the best interests of the child.

If a parent/carer wants to admit their child to Wootton Park School, we will follow our normal processes for in-year admissions applications.

⁶https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

Contingency planning

Wootton Park School will ensure that for individuals or groups of self-isolating learners and learners who are shielding, we follow government guidance related to coronavirus (COVID-19), remote education plans.

Wootton Park School will continue to operate as normally as possible. In the event that restrictions in schools are needed to help contain the spread of the virus, we will refer to the contingency framework⁷, which has been updated and outlines how schools should operate in the event of any restrictions.

Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Staff code of conduct
- IT acceptable use policy
- Health and safety policy
- Online safety policy

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-contingency-framework-for-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings-excluding-universities>