



Policy Title:	INTERIM SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY September 2020 - August 2021		
Prepared by:	Daniel Pastori Head Teacher	Date Prepared:	May 2020
Approved by:	John Gibbins Proprietor	Date Approved:	11.3.20
	Elizabeth Evans Chair of Governors	Date Approved:	11.3.20

Keeping Children Safe in Education

Interim Safeguarding & Child Protection Arrangements for Broadstones School- Coronavirus
(Covid-19)

Context

Whilst acknowledging the pressure that all educational institutions are under as a result of the required responses to addressing coronavirus (Covid-19), we understand it remains essential that we continue to provide an education and to ensure that pupils remain safe.

This guidance is designed to support us as a whole Broadstones community to ensure we continue to have appropriate regard to Keeping Children Safe in Education ([KCSIE 2019](#)) and promote the welfare of all our students.

The way Broadstones are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- With regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first.
- If anyone at Broadstones School has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act immediately in line with existing expectation
- A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy will always be available
- Safer working practices are maintained - it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- Children continue to be safeguarded when they are online

Broadstones are therefore continuing to monitor and risk assess children who are **vulnerable**, and children whose parents are **critical** to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable children include those who are supported by a social care (have a social worker), those with **safeguarding and welfare needs**, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

Additional information is available by following the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

As well as safeguarding those children who are attending our setting, thought must be given to how we safeguard those children at home who are also deemed to be vulnerable. Safeguarding principles remain unchanged. How we escalate and manage them is communicated here and will be shared with Governors and staff to ensure they are understood by the whole Broadstones community. This document is an annex to our more detailed safeguarding policy which still contains relevant details and information on recognising and responding to abuse and continues to be a source of reference.

As a school and in line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) we are committed to working in partnership with Stockport Local Authority and Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership as well as other local authorities. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all should make sure their approach remains child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child. We work in a multi-agency way understanding no single professional can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

1) Safeguarding vulnerable Students remotely

We remain committed to supporting our vulnerable students and will take the following steps:

- Where vulnerable students are not physically in Broadstones School, we will ensure that phone contact is maintained by the Broadstones with all vulnerable pupils at least once per week.
- Where it is identified that a child or family are in need of additional support or guidance we will ensure that this is in place. This may include extra phone calls, signposting and referring to other services. All interactions will be recorded and stored confidentially in line with Broadstones data protection and GDPR policy.
- All vulnerable children and families should be provided with a point of contact for support this should be a Broadstones mobile/phone number or an actively monitored email account. Sharing of personal phone numbers and emails is to be avoided.

2) Broadstones provision for students currently supported at Team Around the Child (TAC) Level 3 or subject to a Child Protection Plan

Children and families who have an allocated Social Worker will **continue** to be supported by them. A set of working principles has been devised and is included in the last section of this document.

Broadstones continue to be a potential key source of additional support to this group. The established relationships between Broadstones and family are of great value and may be key to them feeling confident in seeking and engaging with help when it is needed.

Going forward we recognise these children may need to access Broadstones and where families inform us of a need for help, by way of a placement, we will work with them and

Children's Social Care (as appropriate) to agree a plan of support. Where we believe a child is at risk of significant harm or danger, we will refer our concerns (by **phone** in the first instance) to Children's Social Care – as described in our full Safeguarding Policy.

The contact system outlined section 1 is a crucial component to the proactive safeguarding this group.

Child protection referrals to the Multi-agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH) will be made via telephone.

The online referral system will not be operating from 30.03.20 until further notice. All referrals should be made by phone.

We will ensure that a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is available* to support staff where they have concerns about a child.

This includes:

- Children attending the setting.
- Those children and their families being contacted by Broadstones staff as part of a welfare support package.
- Children who cause concern through other contact or interactions with staff e.g. through remote learning offers etc.

*KCSiE 2019 states “ Whilst generally speaking the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) would be expected to be available in person, it is a matter for individual schools and colleges, working with the designated safeguarding lead, to define what “available” means and whether in exceptional circumstances availability via phone and or Skype or other such media is acceptable.”

3) Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the Broadstones Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via IRIS (Broadstones School MIS System), which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access IRIS (Broadstones School MIS System) from home, they should email and call the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. 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 at Broadstones, they should report the concern to the headteacher. This should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the headteacher.

The Headteacher will offer support in the process of managing allegations.

If staff have concerns around the Headteacher they should refer to the complaints procedure and contact the proprietor in the first instance and then the Chair of Governors: Elizabeth Evans.

For further information on how to contact the DSL & DDSL please refer to the Broadstones School website and Safeguarding Policy. The full responsibilities of the DSL and their deputy are also covered in our main Safeguarding Policy.

If staff cannot reach the DSL/DDSL, and they consider a child to be at immediate risk of harm they will contact the Multi –agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH) Tel. (0161) 217-6028 or 6024 or the Police (999) as they feel appropriate.

The DSL/DDSL & other relevant staff will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency as well as child in need meetings, which can be done remotely.

4) Young carers

We understand that at this current time students who are young carers may benefit from additional contact and support. We are committed to working with other agencies to support their wellbeing and will take the following steps:

- Once a week (minimum) phone contact with the young person.
- Make sure the young carer knows how to access advice for the person they are caring for.
- Awareness of help and support through Stockport's website for guidance.
- Offer of food support if needed
- Record and report concerns in the appropriate way.
- If support and guidance are required, please contact: Katy Franklin Signpost for Young Carers in Stockport
- <https://www.signpostforcarers.org.uk/>

5) Children with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP)

All pupils at Broadstones School have an EHCP and Broadstones School has an important role to play in supporting these children. We recognise that pupils may require access to school and engage in the daily care offer. As referenced previously in this document, this is constantly under review by senior management via approved risk assessments. Where these pupils are not attending the setting but are accessing their education through our online learning Google Classroom platform, allocated staff will make and record welfare calls home weekly at a minimum.

School has a key role to play in supporting these children. We recognise that these children may need to access school and engage in the daily care offer. Where these children are not attending the setting, we will make phone contact with the young person weekly.

6) Supporting children in Broadstones

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

We will continue to offer a safe space, at school and through our remote classroom, for all children to attend and flourish. The Senior Management Team will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate where necessary, to maximise safety.

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 COVID19.

We will ensure that if we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, appropriate support is in place for them. This will be tailored to each pupil as needed and recorded on IRIS (Broadstones School MIS System).

Where there are concerns about the impact of staff absence, such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders, we will work with Local Authorities.

7) Safeguarding Children (off Broadstones site)

At Broadstones we recognise that our students may face challenges and be exposed to risks whilst away from Broadstones School for this extended period. Broadstones staff will still have contact with students, and we will use this time as an opportunity to offer support, advice and guidance, applying the principles of the Broadstones nurturing environment to offer suitable pastoral support. Everyone has a role to play and we expect staff to be vigilant in their interactions with students. Staff should take steps to safeguard pupils by contacting the DSL/DDSL or by making a direct referral (**in line with usual expectations- see Broadstones safeguarding policy and as described in section 2 above**).

8) Online safety

It is likely many students are accessing internet enabled devices more frequently whilst families follow the advice of the government to 'stay at home'. This is also currently our primary source of contact as well as education with most of our students. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we continue to create as many opportunities as we can to support and

educate children on how to stay safe online. Staff should be mindful of existing policies and the details described by the DfE in KCSiE19 -[teaching-online-safety-in-schools](#).

Broadstones 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 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 areas where personal/unsuitable pictures may be seen in the background.
- The live class should be recorded, where possible, so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms specified by senior managers to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record the time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

Further advice and guidance is available from:

Daniel Pastori (DSL) - Headteacher@broadstonesschool.co.uk

Alison Clark (DDSL) - Alisonclark@broadstonesschool.co.uk

Maxine Mottershead (PSHE) - Maxinemottershead@broadstonesschool.co.uk

Hannah Cumbes (ICT) - Hannahcumbes@broadstonesschool.co.uk

9) Peer Abuse

Broadstones recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing students on and off site and providing support to any report of such abuse.

Where Broadstones receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in the main safeguarding policy and in part 5 of KCSiE.

Broadstones 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 will be recorded on IRIS (Broadstones School MIS System) and appropriate referrals made.

10) Attendance

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

If Broadstones School has any children in attendance (e.g. because they are vulnerable or their parent(s) / carers are critical workers and it has been deemed safer for them to be on site rather than home, via risk assessment) we will submit the daily attendance sheet to the DfE by 12 noon -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>

11) Emotional wellbeing

Broadstones School recognise the complexities and challenges of the Covid-19 crisis and the potential impact it may have on the emotional wellbeing of our staff and pupils. We will continually review guidance and cascade information across our workforce. We ask staff to be vigilant for signs of distress and to respond to them in line with our usual working practice.

<https://www.gov.uk/education/health-safety-and-wellbeing-in-Broadstones>

Broadstones is a nurture school and we are running wellbeing and mental health sessions as well as making regular welfare calls.

12) Encompass

As an Encompass school, Broadstones receive notifications from the Police informing us when there has been an incident of domestic abuse or violence at a child's home. This process is to continue, and we will actively monitor notifications, risk assess them in conjunction with other information we hold and escalate our concerns. We will make assessments on a case by case basis of the need to contact families following a notification.

13) Safer recruitment & safer working practice

Any new staff, visitors or volunteers will be risk assessed and inducted in line with existing practice and in compliance with part 3 KCSiE. At least one member of an interview panel will have up to date safer recruitment training.

Staff should continue to apply the principles of our safer working practice standards and general code of conduct.

It is particularly important that staff pay regard to previous advice and guidance on safer working practice, **especially in relation to any online activity**.

14 Staff training & safeguarding induction

All existing Broadstones staff have completed statutory safeguarding training and have read part 1 of KCSIE, safer working practice and the Broadstones safeguarding policy. Staff should adhere to the principles of these key documents and this supplementary guide. Staff should also be aware that there may be further updates and guidance. Individuals will need to be vigilant and ensure that they read all new guidance and ask for clarity or support if required.

The existing Stockport school and college workforce may move between schools and colleges on a temporary basis in response to COVID-19. Any staff arriving at this Broadstones School from another establishment will be given a tailored induction and copies of the Broadstones safeguarding and safer working practice policy.