



# St Wystan's

A REPTON SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Karan Hopkinson, MA

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## COVID-19 SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

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NURTURE  INSPIRE  PREPARE  ACHIEVE

Written **March 2020**

Shared with All Staff Members

**This policy includes the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**



## Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, 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.

St Wystan's School looked after 'key workers' children until the end of the Spring Term on Friday 27th March. St Wystan's School is scheduled to start term on 21st April 2020. There are no plans to open school to 'key workers' children during the Easter break.

This addendum of the St Wystan's Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

This policy should be read in conjunction with St Wystan's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and KCSiE (2019).

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## Key Contacts

Role	Name	Contact Number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs Karan Hopkinson, Head Teacher	01283 703258	<a href="mailto:head@stwystans.org.uk">head@stwystans.org.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Miss Hannah Law, Assistant Head (Pastoral)	01283 703258	<a href="mailto:hlaw@stwystans.org.uk">hlaw@stwystans.org.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs Alex Ingleston-Orme, EYFS Coordinator	01283 703258	<a href="mailto:ainglestonorme@stwystans.org.uk">ainglestonorme@stwystans.org.uk</a>
Safeguarding Governor	Mrs Vickie Barnatt		

We are living in unprecedented times and schools are having to adapt quickly to new ways of working. The safety of our children both at home and at school remains our priority.

We will continue to operate in guidance from KCSiE (2019) and our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy but understand that children and adults will be exposed to greater risks whilst working away from school.

## 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. St Wystan's has no children in this category.

Senior leaders, especially the 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. Cases will be assessed individually by the DSL's and SLT.

St Wystan's 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 for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be: Mrs Karan Hopkinson.

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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 St Wystan's will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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

St Wystan's will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Currently St Wystan's does not have any children who fall into this category although we will continue to monitor those children who we deem to be 'more vulnerable' and offer support as needed.

## 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.

Guidance from the DfE will be followed for registering children at school and at home during the Covid-19 outbreak.

## Designated Safeguarding Lead

St Wystan's has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy (DDSL).

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Karan Hopkinson.

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Hannah Law and Alex Ingleston-Orme.

One of the DSL's will always be available during the schools working day and the DSL's may be contacted by email.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. The DSL will continue to engage with local authorities, which can be done remotely.

## Reporting a Concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy.



Where parents have a concern about a child or a member of staff, they are encouraged to report this concern immediately to the DSL and follow the process outlined in the schools Safeguarding policy.

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 use the standard form to report their concern.

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

## Safeguarding Training and Induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

All DSL training is up to date and will continue to be so until August 2020.

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 they know what to do if they are worried about a child. This Addendum to the policy will be sent to all staff prior to the start of term.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers 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 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

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

## 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, we 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 St Wystan's 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.

St Wystan's 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.

St Wystan's 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](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk)

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/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, St Wystan's will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

## Online Safety in School

St Wystan's will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system when using school facilities.

Where pupils are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place. All pupils coming into school will be reminded of the schools Acceptable Use Policy.

## Children and Online Safety Away from School

We recognise that children will be spending a significant amount of time on-line in this present climate. Whilst it would be unreasonable to expect parents to have the same level of filtering mechanisms in place parents will be advised to check their internet access settings and support offered <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

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.

St Wystan's 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:

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- No 1:1s, groups only.
- 1:1 music lessons may take place but this must be through a parental device and the parent must be present in the room.
- 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.
- 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 provided by the School to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

## Supporting Children Not in School

St Wystan's is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be more vulnerable, 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.

Details of this plan must be recorded, as should a record of contacts made.

The communication plans can include; remote contact or phone contact. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

St Wystan's 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 need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Support with Mental health will be a priority for through our virtual learning. Whilst no face to face interaction can be offered, our support mechanisms will remain and children will be signposted to these support channels through the Parent and Pupil Guide to virtual learning.

We will ensure that where we care for children of key workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child but we will not offer more than it is possible to deliver at home. No child will be disadvantaged by staying at home during this crisis.



## Supporting Children in School

St Wystan's is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils.

We will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Senior Leadership Team will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, 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 where we care for children of key workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

We will ensure that there is always a DSL available on site when pupils are in school and we will ensure there is always a trained first aider.

## Peer on Peer Abuse

St Wystan's recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

We recognise that many children will be spending a significant amount of time online compared to their usual school day. Whilst technology will play an important part in their education and wellbeing it may also give rise to issues not previously experienced. Pupils are more likely to experience unwanted comments on social media or on-line bullying. Parents have been forewarned of the need to monitor their child's social media accounts and report any wrong doing to the school.

A 'good practice' guide will be sent to all parents at the start of term.

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 multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded and appropriate referrals made.

**St Wystan's will continue to act in line with advice from Public Health England during this outbreak.**