

COVID-19 Return to School Safeguarding and Child Protection at Sandwich Infant School



Context

From the week commencing 1 June 2020, the government has asked schools and colleges to plan to welcome back more children, as part of the response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Children will be able to return to early years settings and Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children will return to school in smaller class sizes, from this point.

The way Sandwich Infant School is currently operating in response to coronavirus continues to be different because as an infant school, we have limited capacity to welcome back both Reception and Year 1 children in smaller class sizes in the first instance. However, as we plan for more children to return, our safeguarding principles in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) 2019, remain the same:

- the best interests of children will always come first
- if anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy DSL is always available
- unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online
- Any wider opening risk assessments and related Health and Safety risk assessments will be appropriately linked into our safeguarding approach and child protection policy.

This addendum of Sandwich Infant School Child Protection policy contains details of any amendments to our existing safeguarding arrangements and should be read alongside our current policies and procedures available to staff on KLZ or in the staff room. All staff and volunteers will be aware of the policy addendum and any revisions; the addendum will be made available publicly.

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Libby Wood	01304 612228	headteacher@sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Leanne Bennett	01304 612228	Leanne.bennett@sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Richard Chew	01304 612228	Richard.chew@sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk

Vulnerable Children

Vulnerable children in all year groups continue to be encouraged and expected to attend school where it is appropriate.

Vulnerable children for the purposes of continued attendance during the coronavirus outbreak are those across all year groups who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children 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 and it is determined, following risk assessment, their needs can be as safely or more safely met in Sandwich Infant School.
- have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable and could therefore benefit from continued attendance.
- There is an expectation that children with a social worker will attend, unless in consultation with the child's social worker and family it is agreed they are at less risk at home or in their placement for example due to underlying health conditions.
- Where vulnerable children are not attending the school, we will regularly keep in contact with them by telephone on a weekly basis.
- Sandwich Infant School will continue to work with professionals involved with children and share relevant information with them, such as social workers, early help workers and virtual school heads (VSH). This is especially important during the COVID-19 period.
- This will include information about attendance and any welfare concerns.
- If there is a safeguarding concern, this will be shared with the relevant professional as soon as possible.

Attendance monitoring

From the 15th June, children in Reception (alongside Key Worker and Vulnerable children who have been in school though out), will be returning to school as agreed.

No one with symptoms should attend Sandwich Infant School for any reason.

Vulnerable children's attendance is expected, where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household, and/or following a risk assessment for children with an EHC plan.

Parents and carers will not be penalised if their child does not attend educational provision whilst current Covid-19 restrictions are in place.

For learners agreed to be in school, we will resume our usual day-to-day attendance registers and processes in accordance with existing policies.

Sandwich Infant School will continue to notify social workers where children with a social worker do not attend if it has been agreed that they should be in attendance. The school will also follow up directly with their parent/carer.

Sandwich Infant School will ensure that regular contact is maintained with children (and their families) who are not yet returning to school.

Reporting Concerns

Where any concerns are raised about learners or staff, Sandwich Infant School will follow existing and updated local arrangements as set out by Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP) and as outlined in our existing child protection policy.

Sandwich Infant School recognises that new safeguarding concerns may arise regarding individual children as we see them for the first time in person following partial school closures. All staff will continue to look out for any signs that indicate a child may be at risk, both on and off site, including online.

If a member of staff has any safeguarding concerns about a child, this will be reported to the DSL as soon as possible.

If the concern is urgent, the member of staff will speak to a DSL in person or via phone/video call if they are not on site, immediately.

In the event a member of staff or volunteer cannot contact a DSL, this will not delay them taking immediate action to safeguard a child in line with our existing child protection policy.

Concerns will be recorded using CPOMS safeguarding software.

Prevent is a vital part of our work to safeguard children from radicalising influences; the school will continue to follow local processes where we have concerns during this challenging time.

Learners are encouraged to report concerns to a teacher or to a trusted adult at home.

Parents/carers are encouraged to report concerns to the school.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with learners, they should report the concern to the headteacher.

If there are concerns about any member of staff or volunteer, the Local Authority Designated Officer service will be consulted with.

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

Safer Working Practice, Including Safeguarding Training and Induction

All staff will follow our existing staff Code of Conduct and any addendum updates with regards to safer working practice.

Staff will continue to follow any updates to the Code of Conduct if necessary, to reflect current Covid-19 measures and increased numbers of learners on site from 15th June.

All staff have read KCSIE 2019 Part 1 and accessed safeguarding training.

Staff will be made aware if any local processes or arrangements have changed as more children return, so they know what to do if there are concerns about a child.

Any new staff and volunteers will receive child protection induction training from the DSL and will be provided with a copy of the Sandwich Infant School Child Protection Policy and Covid-19 Addendum.

Face to face DSL refresher training is 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.

Formal DSL refresher training will be undertaken as soon as possible; the DSLs (and deputies) will continue to do what they reasonably can to keep up to date with safeguarding developments.

Safer Recruitment

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children.

If Sandwich Infant School recruits new staff, we will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment practices including those set up in Part 3 of KCSIE 2019.

Sandwich Infant School will continue to update the single central record in line with KCSIE. (Paragraphs 148 to 156)

Supporting Well-being

Sandwich Infant School recognises that staff, parents and children may experience some degree of emotional wellbeing or anxiety challenges as more children return to school.

We recognise that many children consider the school to be a safe place but the current situation may impact on learners', staff and parents' mental health.

Sandwich Infant School will plan to ensure everyone feels supported through an inclusive culture and that everyone returns to a positive working environment to help relieve any anxiety or fear.

We will ensure the whole community are welcomed. Staff and learners will be given the opportunity for well-being check-ins within trusted relationships

Sandwich Infant School will ensure that all children who are categorised as vulnerable or children of critical workers, as well as those children returning to school are appropriately supported.

Staff will address the wellbeing of learners through a range of approaches including age/ability appropriate activities.

Sandwich Infant School is conscious of the wellbeing of all staff and the need to implement flexible working practices in a way that supports staff and promotes good work-life balance.

The headteacher will be available to provide support to staff as required.

Teachers will be aware of the impact the current circumstances can have on the mental health of learners (and their parents) who are continuing to work from home, including when setting expectations of children's work.

Sandwich Infant School will continue to signpost staff, learners and parents to a range of appropriate sources of support, internally and externally.

Supporting Children in School

The school is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its learners.

Sandwich Infant School will be mindful of the specific needs of learners in Reception who have been identified as the first to return to school.

Sandwich Infant School needs to be confident we have up to date information on learners returning to site which reflects any changes in circumstances which could impact on their welfare.

Sandwich Infant School will do all we reasonably can to ask parents to advise us of any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that we should be aware of before a child returns to school.

Sandwich Infant School will be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. We will ensure that there is an appropriate number of staff on site and that staff to learner ratios have been considered to maximise the safety of children.

Sandwich Infant School will follow the current government guidance in relation to social distancing and all matters relating to public health from the respective authorities.

Sandwich Infant School will continue to record any support provided to children in relation to safeguarding issues in line with our existing safeguarding recording system.

Online safety

Sandwich Infant School's expectations with regards to online behaviour and education when using school devices or internet access on site will continue to be implemented in line with existing policies.

Any concerns regarding onsite online behaviour or use will be responded to in line with existing policies.

The school will continue to provide a safe online learning environment. Where learners use devices provided by Sandwich Infant School on site, appropriate filtering and monitoring will continue to be implemented.

Learners' internet use will be supervised by staff according to their age and ability and learners will be directed to use appropriate online resources and tools.

Use of staff and learners' personal devices, including mobile phones, will be managed in line with our existing mobile technology policy.

Supporting children not in school

The Government has strongly encouraged children in eligible year groups to return to school unless they are self-isolating or shielding, however there may be a significant number of children still not attending school.

Sandwich Infant School will continue to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people on the roll but who may not be physically attending.

All DSLs will continue to identify vulnerable children who would benefit from Early Help as identified in KCSIE 2019, provide pastoral support and consider whether they would benefit from external support.

DfE Guidance

- Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers: www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers
- Vulnerable Children Guidance: 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
- COVID-19: guidance for educational settings: www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers: www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): attendance recording for educational settings: www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings

Specific Links relating to Coronavirus for Learners and Parents/Carers

- Kent County Council: www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/coronavirus
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/

- Mind: www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/
- Young Minds: <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>
- Kent Children’s University: Home Resources Learning Packs: www.theeducationpeople.org/blog/kent-childrens-university-home-learning-resources-pack-is-live/
- Children’s Commissioner:
 - Children’s guide to coronavirus: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/
 - Resources for parents during coronavirus: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/coronavirus/resources/
- Sport England: www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout
- Place2be:
 - www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-supporting-children-who-may-be-especially-vulnerable/
 - www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-information-for-children/

Online Safety

- NCA-CEOP: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- Internet Matters: www.internetmatters.org
- Childnet: www.childnet.com/blog/keeping-children-happy-and-safe-online-during-covid-19
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/working-remotely-advice-professionals-parents-posh-rhc
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/
- Parent Info: <https://parentinfo.org/>
- BBC Own it: www.bbc.com/ownit

Domestic Abuse

- Domestic Abuse Services: www.domesticabuseservices.org
- Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111 www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/supportline
- Oasis Domestic Abuse service – Service provider, East Kent. (Thanet and Dover): www.oasisdaservice.org/home
- Clarion Housing Association – Service provider for North and South Kent
 - South Kent: (Ashford, Folkestone & Hythe and Canterbury) Rising Sun Domestic Abuse service helpline: 01227 452852 (Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm)
- National Women’s Aid Domestic Abuse 24hr helpline:0800 2000247