



Addendum to Safeguarding Policy

A response to: COVID-19: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers.

1st September 2021

Review: reviewed and updated as interim guidance form the Government is issued.

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. Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This addendum of the Yardley Gobion CE Primary Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in light of the changes to our normal operating procedures.

YGPS will continue to follow the principles outlined in Keeping Children safe in Education.

A number of important safeguarding principles will be adhered to:

- ✓ The best interests of children will always come first.
- ✓ If anyone at YGPS has a safeguarding concern about any child they will continue to act immediately.
- ✓ A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) will be available each day.
- ✓ Unsuitable people will not be allowed to enter the Children's workforce and/or gain access to children.
- ✓ Children should be protected when they are online.

Key contacts:

Role	Name	Contact Info
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)/HT	Val Griffiths	head@yardleygobion.northants-ecl.go.uk 01908 542261
Deputy DSL	Jane Hooper	jhooper@yardleygobionschool.co.uk 01908 542261
Deputy DSL	Paul Thompson	pthompson@yardleygobionschool.co.uk 01908 542261
Safeguarding Governor	Beth Stone	bstonegov@yardleygobionschool.co.uk
Chair of Governors	Julie Hammond	jhammondgov@yardleygobionschool.co.uk

Vulnerable children:

YGPS 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 people for this will be the DSL & DDSL's.

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 place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. 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 Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Deputies) 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.

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 YGPS senior leaders will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. These discussions will be recorded. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting Covid-19, YGPS or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England. We will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend school, including remotely if 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. YGPS and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school. YGPS will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. YGPS 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. In this situation we will follow its usual procedures for children who are not present in school at the close of the register.

To support the above, YGPS 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, school will notify their social worker.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

YGPS has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and two Deputy DSL's (DDSL) identified above. Where possible there will be 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 Senior Leader on-site will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. It is important that all YGPS staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or Deputy). On each day, staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to speak to them.

The DSLs will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely. These remote meetings will be attended by a DSL or DDSL in a location that is private and undisturbed.

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the YGPS policy, this includes making a report to a DSL, which can be done remotely using the head@ email address (this is only accessible by the DSLs). 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 follow the YGPS Whistle Blowing Policy and, if needed, should use the head@ email address to raise concerns. Concerns around the Head Teacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Mrs Julie Hammond

Safeguarding Training and Induction:

At YGPS, DSL training is current and up to date. All existing school staff have had Safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021).

The DSLs will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, should they be made, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child. Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers begin, a safeguarding induction as outlined in the Staff Induction policy will be provided.

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
- ✓ the staff member has had safeguarding and child protection training.

Prior to arrival, they will be given a copy of our Safeguarding 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, YGPS will continue to follow the YGPS Safer Recruitment Policy.

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 YGPS 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.**

The 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](#). The 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. During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing 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, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, YGPS will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in [KCSIE](#). Staff will only be on site at school when they are attending work as identified on the staff rota.

Online safety:

YGPS 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.

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 Safeguarding Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in YGPS code of conduct. YGPS will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

The Academy will give regular updates to parents and children about online safety to ensure children remain safe.

Supporting children not in school:

YGPS 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 will ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person. Details of this plan must be recorded, as must a record of contact made. The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits in pairs (maintaining social distancing by driving in separate vehicles). This contact may be made by the DSLs or by the class teacher. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded if required.

YGPS and its DSLs will work closely with relevant 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.

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

YGPS 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 so that they remain safe and can flourish.

The Head Teacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are correct, to maximise safety.

YGPS 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.

Where YGPS has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Leads or first aiders the Senior leadership team will discuss these with representatives of the Governing Body, local cluster schools and the Local Authority.

Peer on Peer Abuse:

YGPS 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 the YGPS Safeguarding Policy. The school will listen to 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 will be recorded and appropriate referrals made.

Communications:

The use of mobile phones by staff to enable essential contact with parents/carers, colleagues working at home, emergency services and across the school site is currently permitted. Staff may only use their mobile phones for this purpose. Where staff telephone families from their personal devices, they must withhold their number by dialling 141 and then the phone number.

