



STANBRIDGE LOWER SCHOOL

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update to Child Protection Policy March 2020

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.

The way schools 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 in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available
- it is essential that 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

This addendum of the Child Protection Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

1. Vulnerable Children
2. Attendance
3. Designated Safeguarding Leads
4. Safeguarding Training and Induction
5. Safer Recruitment, Volunteers and Movement of Staff
6. Online Safety
7. Peer on Peer Abuse
8. Education off Site
9. Mental Health
10. Support and Advice for Children

1. Vulnerable Children

1.1 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.

1.2 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.

1.3 Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability. 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.

1.4 Stanbridge 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 will be:

Head Teacher - Miss R Godwin contact: rgodwin@stanbridge.beds.sch.uk

Senior Teacher - Mr I Wilkins contact: iwilkins@stanbridge.beds.sch.uk

Named Governor for Child Protection - Mrs Veronica Clarke contact: info@stanbridge.beds.sch.uk

1.5 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 school name will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

1.6 Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, school name or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England. school name will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

2. Attendance

2.1 Stanbridge Lower School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school - Stanbridge Lower School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Stanbridge Lower School 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. Mrs Davies (Family Liaison Officer) 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 name will notify their social worker.

2.2 Supporting Vulnerable Children Not in School: Mrs Davies (Family Liaison Officer) will *check in* with children who are considered to be vulnerable and who are not in school weekly to see what and if the family require any support. A record of contact should be kept and any safeguarding concerns be reported following school procedure.

3 Designated Safeguarding Lead

3.1 The key staff responsible for safeguarding are as follows:

Designated Safeguarding Lead : Head Teacher - Miss R Godwin contact: rgodwin@stanbridge.beds.sch.uk

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Senior Teacher - Mr I Wilkins contact: iwilkins@stanbridge.beds.sch.uk

Named Governor for Child Protection - Mrs Veronica Clarke contact: info@stanbridge.beds.sch.uk

3.2 The optimal scenario is to have 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. Parents can access the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy via the above email links.

3.3 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. This might include updating and managing access to child protection systems and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at school. The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

3.4 Staff in charge on site each day can access the Designated Safeguarding Lead daily through the agreed telephone number. All causes for concern should be reported directly to the Head Teacher or in her absence the Senior Teacher. Mrs Davies (Family Liaison Officer) is also trained in Child Protection and is available to deal with all incidents if needed. Staff are reminded to report each concern immediately and without delay. Where staff are concerned about an adult working in school this should be reported in the same way.

4. Safeguarding Training and Induction

4.1 All training for the safeguarding leads is up to date.

4.2 Annual child protection training for staff in May 2020 will either take place as planned through the INSET schedule or if school has not resumed will take place through individual online training. The Head Teacher will organise this.

5. Safer Recruitment, Volunteers and Movement of Staff

5.1 It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. All volunteering at Stanbridge Lower School has been suspended and only staff who are currently employed at the school and have had relevant safeguarding checks completed should be allowed access to children.

5.2 If Stanbridge Lower School has to recruit staff we will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE)

5.3 Stanbridge Lower 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

5.4 Stanbridge Lower School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

6. Online Safety

6.1 Stanbridge Lower School 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.

6.2 Children and online safety away from school: 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.

6.3 Stanbridge Lower School has published links for parents to help them keep their children when working online. These links can be accessed via our website on www.stanbridge.beds.sch.uk under the "children tab".

6.4 Stanbridge Lower School will not be using virtual lessons. All work is accessed via a weekly year group plan accessed via our school website.

6.5 We request that parents contact staff through the homeschoolstanbridge@gmail.com email address and then staff should contact parents via email or via a phone call (always remembering to put 141 in front of the number before dialing to protect staffs personal details). However if parents request a 1-1 video chat with staff; below are some things to consider when delivering advice to parents, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s with children unless their parent is present and you can see the parent on the camera.
- Staff, children and parents 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 chat should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed
- Live chat 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 should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

6.6 If staff are working in school and parents request support, staff can contact them in the normal way via the school telephone.

7. Peer on Peer Abuse

7.1 Stanbridge Lower School 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 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 in child protection records and appropriate referrals made.

8. Education Off Site

8.1 In the event that Stanbridge Lower School closes and children of Keyworkers are educated off site the principles in [Keeping children safe in education \(KCSIE\)](#) and this guidance continue to apply. In particular, the school that is acting as the hub in the cluster should continue to provide a safe environment, keep children safe and ensure staff and volunteers have been appropriately checked and risk assessments carried out as required. Additional advice on clusters and safeguarding will be provided in due course.

8.2 At Stanbridge we will adhere to the following guidance

It will be important for any school or college whose children are attending another setting to do whatever they reasonably can to provide the receiving institution with any relevant welfare and child protection information. This will be especially important where children are vulnerable. For looked-after children, any change in school should be led and managed by the VSH with responsibility for the child. The receiving institution should be aware of the reason the child is vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them. As a minimum the receiving institution should, as appropriate, have access to a vulnerable child's EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or, for looked-after children, their personal education plan and know who the child's social worker (and, for looked-after children, who the responsible VSH is). This should ideally happen before a child arrives and, where that is not possible as soon as reasonably practicable. Any exchanges of information will ideally happen at DSL (or deputy) level, and likewise between special educational needs co-ordinators/named individual with oversight of SEN provision for children with EHC plans. However, it is acknowledged this may not always be possible. Where this is the case senior leaders should take responsibility.

Whilst schools and colleges must continue to have appropriate regard to data protection and GDPR they do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Further advice about information sharing can be found at paragraphs 76-83 of KCSIE.

9. Mental Health

9.1 At Stanbridge Lower School we recognise negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Teachers at Stanbridge should be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

9.2 Where children are working on site Stanbridge Lower School will ensure appropriate support is in place for them. Members of staff must set aside time each day to talk to the children on site through a circle time activity or on a 1-1 basis. Staff should continue to scale with pupils during registration times and if a child is below 5 on the scale the child should be given some personal time so staff can explore their emotional well being and offer appropriate support. Referrals can be made to Mrs Davies (Family Liaison Officer) following the normal procedure.

9.3 Where children are at home parents can contact Mrs Davies and Miss Godwin via the email addresses listed at the top of this policy and on the school website under the "children" tab. Parents can provide their contact telephone number in the email and staff will endeavour to contact them as soon as possible.

10. Support and Advice for Children

10.1 Where children are at home and have concerns about their safety or feel they are at risk from harm, children can contact Mrs Davies and Miss Godwin via the email addresses listed at the top of this policy and on the school website under the "children" tab. Children can also access these links for support

- [Childline](#) - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse

Miss Godwin
Head Teacher
March 2020