

**Annex to the ODBST Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy  
(Updated October 2020)**



**COVID-19 school closure arrangements  
for  
Safeguarding and Child Protection at  
Curzon CE Combined School**

<b>Policy Level:</b>	2	<u>ODBST Statutory Policy</u> (ALL Schools with no change allowed to core text. Changes to school name and school's usual sign-off and review date reminders allowed)
<b>Other related ODBST policies and procedures:</b>	ODBST School Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy 2020 School Anti-Bullying Policy ODBST & School Behaviour Policy ODBST Staff Conduct Policy School SEN Policy School Vulnerable Pupils Policy School E-Safety Policy KCSIE 2020	
<b>Committee responsible:</b>	Academy Effectiveness Committee	
<b>Approved by:</b>	Exec Committee	
<b>Date Approved:</b>		
<b>Date for Next Review:</b>	01.09.21	

## Context

From September 2020 schools were asked to reopen for all pupils. Restrictions on class sizes were relaxed and rules around shielding suspended. Parents were asked to ensure that their children attended regularly and the attendance requirements reinforced.

Additional guidance and regulation were introduced to cover infection risks, the routines for symptomatic pupils and staff and the contact and support from Public Health England (PHE) for the decision making process when positive test outcomes were received. A flow-chart for this now guides our actions.

However, there is still the possibility for pupils, classes and indeed whole schools to be shut down for periods due to a positive COVID outbreak. The national picture also allows for Department of Health direction for regional lock-downs which could close all schools in an area. As such the residual responsibilities for pupils around safeguarding should remain clearly understood and procedures to ensure the safety and security of children and young people are clear.

This addendum of the Curzon CE Combined School Safeguarding and Child Protection policy applies to pupils of the school when they are unable or directed not to attend by reason of local or regional COVID cases and as a result, work from home using virtual learning platforms.

## Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs J Payne	01494 712251	<a href="mailto:office@curzonschool.com">office@curzonschool.com</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs H Steere Mrs C Bradshaw		
Headteacher	Mrs J Payne	As above	
Chair of Governors	Mr M Bowditch		Via <a href="mailto:office@curzonschool.com">office@curzonschool.com</a> or governor post box in school foyer.
Nominated Safeguarding Governor	Dr R McDouall		Via <a href="mailto:office@curzonschool.com">office@curzonschool.com</a> or governor post box in school foyer.
Trust Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr D Cousins	01296 615308	<a href="mailto:ceo.odbst@oxford.anglican.org">ceo.odbst@oxford.anglican.org</a>
Safeguarding Trustee	Mr S Edgar		<a href="mailto:steve.edgar1@btinternet.com">steve.edgar1@btinternet.com</a>

### 1. Vulnerable children

#### 1.1. Vulnerable children include

- those who have a social worker
- those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

#### 1.2. Those who have a social worker include children who



- have a Child Protection Plan
  - those who are looked after by the Local Authority.
- 1.3. 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.
  - 1.4. Those with an EHC plan are expected to attend school and so are also expected to engage in the remote learning<sup>1</sup> offered by schools.
  - 1.5. Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.
  - 1.6. 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.
  - 1.7. There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will engage in the education being provided remotely by the school. In circumstances where a bubble or school closure is directed by PHE the school's remote learning will be provided for the cohort or school. The social worker will work with the parents/carers to encourage engagement in this type of remote learning.
  - 1.8. Curzon CE Combined School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.
  - 1.9. Where class, whole school or regional lockdowns mean pupils cannot attend school remote learning relies on access to IT equipment and internet connections. Each school has a named member of staff who will be the contact under the DfE scheme to [provide laptops and tablets for children](#) who cannot attend school due to coronavirus.

Schools will be able to order an allocation of devices for:

- disadvantaged children in years 3 to 11 who do not have access to a device and whose face-to-face education is disrupted
- disadvantaged children in any year group who have been advised to shield because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable
- disadvantaged children in any year group attending a hospital school

Devices can be ordered for disadvantaged children in years 3 to 11 who are unable to attend school when:

- a primary school is only open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers ([tier 4](#))
- a school has 15 or more children in years 3 to 11 who are self-isolating having each been exposed to a confirmed case outside the school community
- a local health protection team has advised a group of children in years 3 to 11 (such as a 'bubble' or year group) not to attend school
- a school or college is fully open, but supporting a disadvantaged child living in another area who is unable to attend due to local travel restrictions

Devices can be ordered for disadvantaged children in any year group who are unable

---

<sup>1</sup> All ODBST schools have a Remote Learning Policy which sets out the provision and expectations for pupils required to isolate and not attend school for a period of time.



to attend school when:

- a school supports a clinically extremely vulnerable and disadvantaged child who has been [instructed to shield](#) by a medical professional or local health protection team

## **2. Safeguarding and clusters**

2.1. In some circumstances schools may be asked to collaborate and children and/or staff from multiple settings may be directed to attend a different or shared site. In these cases 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.

## **3. Attendance monitoring**

- 3.1. From the start of the autumn term 2020 pupil attendance will be mandatory and the usual rules on attendance will apply. Education settings are required to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes including any returns to the LA or DfE and to follow up on non-attendance. However, in the event of a closure directed by PHE or as a result of the assessment by the Headteacher that the setting is not to open all day for groups of or all pupils, changes to the regulations governing school attendance registers allow a new category of non-attendance – ‘not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)’.
- 3.2. This category must only be used to record sessions that take place in the 2020 to 2021 academic year where a pupil does not attend because their travel to, or attendance at, school would be:
- contrary to guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) from Public Health England (PHE) and/or the Department of Health and Social Care;
  - prohibited by any legislation (or instruments such as statutory directions) relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- 3.3. This new category of non-attendance will not count as an absence (authorised or unauthorised) for statistical purposes.
- 3.4. Curzon CE Combined School will then follow up on any pupils that were expecting to attend, who are classified as vulnerable and for whom the school retains, through their EHCP, responsibility for statutory provision for their need.
- 3.5. To support the above, Curzon CE Combined School 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.
- 3.6. In all circumstances where a vulnerable child is not able through local or area closure to attend school, Curzon CE Combined School will notify their social worker.

## **4. Designated Safeguarding Lead**

4.1. Curzon CE Combined School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.



- The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs Payne
  - The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Steere and Mrs Bradshaw
- 4.2. The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where partial or full closure limits this the DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or using remote video connection - for example when working from home. All ODBST schools have a reciprocal agreement to support safeguarding and any DSL can be contacted for advice and support in an emergency (see appendix A)
  - 4.3. Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site due to direction to self-isolate, in addition to 4.2, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding arrangements on site and make contact with a Trust DSL to arrange temporary cover.
  - 4.4. This might include updating and managing access to secure electronic files and liaising with an offsite DSL (or deputy) 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 the school or college.
  - 4.5. It is important that all Curzon CE Combined School 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.
  - 4.6. The temporary DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

## **5. Reporting a concern**

- 5.1. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.
- 5.2. Where staff have a concern about a child as a result of virtual class contact or specific virtual disclosures they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via the green forms kept in the staffroom.
- 5.3. Staff should ensure that the concern is received by the DSL. In the event that a member of staff cannot access the green forms if working from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher asking for a direct contact to discuss their concerns and email their concerns in writing.
- 5.4. Where staff are concerned about an adult engaging with children through the virtual platform, they should report the concern to the headteacher. If the headteacher is isolated or working remotely, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the headteacher. In the event that the headteacher is unavailable the contact should be to the Trust Designated Safeguarding Lead (David Cousins- CEO).
- 5.5. Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Mr M Bowditch. ODBST will continue to offer support in the process of managing such allegations.

## **6. Safeguarding Training and induction**

- 6.1. DSL training is unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.
- 6.2. 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.

- 6.3. All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) as part of their induction and initial staff meetings. The DSL should communicate with staff through virtual means any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.
- 6.4. Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers are given access to the virtual learning platform, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction with a focus on the school's E-Safety and Virtual Learning Policy.
- 6.5. 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
- 6.6. For movement within the Trust, schools should seek assurance from ODBST's HR Manager that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training.
- 6.7. 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.

## **7. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff**

- 7.1. 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, Curzon CE Combined School 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).
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. Where Curzon CE Combined School 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 new volunteer who has not been checked be given unsupervised access to the virtual learning platform or allowed to engage in regulated activity via such a platform. Volunteers who have previously been checked by the school (i.e. not new people) will not have to undergo a repeat DBS check while the restrictions continue. Curzon CE Combined School will ensure that all risk assessments in respect of volunteers are kept up to date and if any concerns do arise about an individual's suitability to work with children they will be asked to stop their support in school while a repeat DBS check will be undertaken.
- 7.4. Curzon CE Combined 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.

- 7.5. Curzon CE Combined 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.
- 7.6. During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing [Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk)
- 7.7. Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, Trustees continue to believe that it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that all schools are 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, Curzon CE Combined School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE and ODBST guidance.

## **8. Online safety in schools**

- 8.1. Curzon CE Combined School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.
- 8.2. Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

## **9. Children and online safety away from school**

- 9.1. 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.
- 9.2. Online learning should follow the same principles as set out in the MAT code of conduct.
- 9.3. Curzon CE Combined School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.
- 9.4. Below are areas for all staff to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved<sup>2</sup>:
  - No 1:1s, groups only
  - 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 agreed by the SLT of their school to communicate

---

<sup>2</sup> ODBST Safeguarding and Safe Remote Learning Guidance



with pupils

- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

## **10. Supporting children not in school**

- 10.1. Curzon CE Combined School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and young people.
- 10.2. 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 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 contact have made.
- 10.3. Curzon CE Combined School 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 Curzon CE Combined School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.
- 10.4. Curzon CE Combined School 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. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded.

## **11. Supporting children in school when open or partially open**

- 11.1. Curzon CE Combined School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils.
- 11.2. Curzon CE Combined School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff:pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to ensure safety.
- 11.3. Curzon CE Combined School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement hygiene standards, 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.
- 11.4. Curzon CE Combined School 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. This will be bespoke to each child and any safeguarding concerns recorded in the usual manner.
- 11.5. Where Curzon CE Combined School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – they will discuss them immediately with the Trust's DSL.

## **12. Peer on Peer Abuse<sup>3</sup>**

- 12.1. Curzon CE Combined School recognises that during a closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.
- 12.2. 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 their Child Protection Policy.

---

<sup>3</sup> Peer on Peer Abuse – Policy and Procedural Guidance Including sexual violence and sexual harassment between children





12.3. The school 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.

12.4. Concerns and actions must be recorded and appropriate referrals made.

### **13. Support from ODBST**

13.1. The Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) Central Team will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable senior leaders and the DSL to carry out their roles effectively.

