



**COVID-19 school lockdown
arrangements for
Safeguarding and Child Protection
at
Bretforton Village School**

Policy owner: Kevin Riley (DSL)

Date: Updated by WCF and Bretforton Village School January 2021

Date shared with staff: 18th January 2021

1. Context

On January 5th, 2021 another national lockdown was imposed. Schools, alternative provision, special schools, and colleges will remain open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers only. All other children and students will learn remotely until at least February half term.

Bretforton Village School will continue to follow DfE COVID guidance (DfE COVID Safeguarding guidance).

Safeguarding and Designated Safeguarding Leads

Keeping Children Safe in Education is statutory safeguarding guidance that all schools, FE colleges, sixth form colleges and designated institutions must continue to follow. Other 16 to 19 providers are required to comply with relevant safeguarding duties and to follow the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education by virtue of their funding agreement.

Early years providers must continue to follow the safeguarding requirements in section three of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

Bretforton Village School will ensure that all school staff are aware of this revised policy.

Bretforton Village School will ensure that a DSL or DDSL will be on site where possible. However, in some circumstances this is not possible and the following may be implemented:

- a trained DSL (or deputy) from the early years setting, school or FE provider is available to be contacted via phone or online video, for example working from home
- sharing trained DSLs (or deputies) with other schools or FE providers (who should be available to be contacted via phone or online video)

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to one of the above options, a senior leader should take responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site.

Contact details for reporting to Public Health

Bretforton Village School will contact for COVID-19 queries related to education settings including early years and childcare settings, schools or Post 16 provision:

Worcestershire County Council Public Health Team

Email: WCChealthprotection@worcestershire.gov.uk
Tel: 01905 845491

For notification of suspected cases:

On-line notification:

<https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/TestAndTracePublic/SchoolEducation>

For notification of confirmed cases:

Worcestershire County Council Local Outbreak Response Team (LORT)

Monday-Sunday 0900-1800

Email: WCChealthprotection@worcestershire.gov.uk. Please add to the subject line
"Bretforton Village School - positive case confirmed"

Tel: 01905 845491

You can find all our procedures and guidance on the management of suspected cases, management of confirmed cases and arrangements for management of a possible outbreak on our website: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health guidance for settings.

This annex of Bretforton Village School's Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

1. Context
2. Vulnerable children and critical workers
3. Attendance monitoring
4. Designated Safeguarding Lead
5. Reporting a concern
6. Safeguarding Training and induction
7. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff
8. Online safety in schools and colleges
9. Children and online safety away from school and college
10. Supporting children not in school
11. Supporting children in school

Key Contacts:

Role	Name	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Kevin Riley	head@bretforton.worcs.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)	Kirsty Shaw	kjs83@bengeworth.worcs.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher	David Coaché	head@bengeworth.worcs.sch.uk
SENCO	Rebecca Hancock	Rhancock@bretforton.worcs.sch.uk

MAT Inclusion Lead	Rachel Seneque	rcl8@bengeworth.worcs.sch.uk
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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.

All children and young people with EHCPs should be able to attend in school provision during the lockdown. However, parents and carers may choose for their child to remain at home during this period, in which case they should receive remote learning.

Risk assessments should be updated for children and young people with EHCPs whose parents and carers do not choose to take up an onsite school place during the current lockdown. Schools should contact SEND casework if they have any concerns about making the provision outlined in a child's EHCP through the provision of remote learning.

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 deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are. We ensure that all children with an EHC plan will have returned to school in September 2020. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people 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

- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services or in the process of being referred to children’s services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET (‘not in employment, education or training’)
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
 - others at the provider and local authority’s discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

Bretforton Village School 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 is Kevin Riley (DSL).

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, will be notified if a child has had to self-isolate, either through the child having a confirmed case of COVID-19 or is in a school bubble that has had to collapse in order to self-isolate for 14 days so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID-19, Bretforton Village School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Bretforton Village School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Attendance monitoring

Bretforton Village School will inform relevant social workers if a child is not able to attend school due to COVID-19 (e.g. for those on a Child Protection plan or Child in Need plan).

To support the above, Bretforton Village 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.

In all circumstances, where a vulnerable child who has been allocated a social worker does not take up their place at school, or discontinues to do so, we will notify their social worker.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy which includes making a report in writing, which can be accessed remotely from any internet-ready device. Staff should also email the DSL to 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 report the concern to the Heads of School or Executive Headteacher. Concerns around the Heads of School or Executive Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors. All concerns must be reported to the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO).

Safeguarding Training and induction

Deputy Safeguarding Leads (or deputy) will be able to access DSL training either virtually or face to face and all DSLs will need to have their DSL certificates up to date.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Bretforton Village School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction and be required to read Part 1 of KCSIE 2020, the school's safeguarding policy and additional safeguarding documents as determined by the school's induction process.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will consider 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, Bretforton Village 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 (2020).

As much as possible, volunteers will not be permitted in school for the duration of lockdown and school closure due to Covid-19. Where Bretforton Village 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 volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Bretforton Village 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.

Bretforton Village 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 or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Bretforton Village School keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Online safety in schools

Bretforton Village 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.

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. If children are sent home to self-isolate due to a break down in school bubbles, online safety will continue to be followed.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the School's Code of Conduct.

Bretforton Village School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things the school will consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- 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 if at all possible.
- 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 Bretforton Village School to communicate with pupils.
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

Supporting children not in school

Bretforton Village School 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 should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

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

Bretforton Village School and its DSL will work closely with all 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. Bretforton Village 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 Bretforton Village School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Bretforton Village 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, when appropriate.

Supporting children in school

Bretforton Village School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Bretforton Village School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.

The Head of School will ensure that appropriate staff are on site, drawing up and revising a rolling schedule of staff required to be in school, and that staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Bretforton Village School 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, the cleaning of surfaces and touch points, and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

Bretforton Village 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.

Where Bretforton Village School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – will discuss them immediately with the SLT.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Bretforton Village 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, and appropriate referrals made.

Social Distancing

All staff and students working in school will observe the government guidelines on social distancing. Currently these are:

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands regularly
- If appropriate, wear a face covering when in close proximity to parents and carers.