

COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Crestwood School and Sixth Form January 2021



Mr D. Boerm, Deputy Head Teacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead.
Reviewed: 27.01.2021
Mr R. Dimmock, Chair of Governors, Safeguarding Link

1. Context

From 5th January 2021 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 are 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.

Please see latest guidance from 8th January 2021 (and keep an eye out for latest Government info which could be subject to change.)

What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951035/210108_Parents_Guidance_vF.pdf

Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Providing school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr D. Boerm	01384 686850	dboerm@crestwood-s.dudley.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs L. Goodman	01384 686850	lgoodman@crestwood-s.dudley.sch.uk
Headteacher	Mrs C. Sutton	01384686850	csutton@crestwood-s.dudley.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Mr R. Dimmock		rdimmock1@crestwood-s.dudley.sch.uk

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 be deemed vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989. The new guidance states that there is no requirement to risk assess children this time.

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.

Crestwood 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) Andrew.Wright@dudley.gov.uk for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be: Mr D. Boerm.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they are not clinically, extremely vulnerable and have been advised to shield. 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 Crestwood School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Crestwood School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Crestwood School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend school but not insist if the child is safe to be educated at home. Students will be expected to attend lessons virtually, support will be offered.

Attendance monitoring

Schools will need to continue to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes and follow up on non-attendance of pupils who are expected to be in attendance. Crestwood School will follow up on any pupil that they expect to attend and subsequently does not.

All pupils who are not expected to be in school should be marked as Code X. They are not attending because they are following public health advice.

To support the above, Crestwood School will, when communicating with parents/carers and allocated social workers, etc., confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr D. Boerm

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs L. Goodman

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 contact 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 will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be remotely.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy; this includes making a report via Schools safeguarding systems which can be remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their School safeguarding systems, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately.

If there is a significant safeguarding concern and/or if any child, where staying at home for a prolonged period raises a concern for DSL, refer to MASH/Children's Social Services outlining the risks on a MARF and record safeguarding details.

MASH contact: - 0300 555 0050 or 0300 555 8574 after 5pm/weekends and Bank Holidays. Email: MASH_Referrals@dudley.gov.uk

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the Headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be verbally, and then followed up with an email to the headteacher. Managing allegations process should be followed in the usual way. Contact LADO, Yvonne Nelson-Brown Allegations@dudley.gov.uk

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Mr R. Dimmock.

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training will continue to take place albeit virtually.

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 Crestwood School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

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, Crestwood 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) (KCSIE).

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.

Crestwood 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 in KCSIE or contact LADO, for advice and guidance.

Crestwood School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 173 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, Crestwood School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 153 to 159 in KCSIE.

Online safety in schools and colleges

Crestwood 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 and college

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.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the Crestwood School code of conduct.

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

Virtual/Online & Remote Learning

Below are some things to 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.
- 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 Invictus MAT to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held

Supporting children not in school

Crestwood 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.

Details of this plan must be recorded on School safeguarding systems.

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

Crestwood School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly 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.

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

Crestwood 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.

Supporting children in school

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

Crestwood 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 to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Crestwood 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 and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

Crestwood 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.

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

Peer on Peer Abuse

Crestwood 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 on Schools safeguarding systems / CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.