

Addendum: COVID-19 St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

**21.05.20 TO BE REVIEWED IN LINE WITH
GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE AND AS MORE
PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL.**

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Purpose

St Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery has their own individual safeguarding policy linked clearly to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019. To ensure own policy remains compliant with Keeping Children Safe in Education, Early Years Foundation Stage and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#), please see the addendum below.

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 St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery Child Protection and Safeguarding policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements. We will follow [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#) and regularly review as and when more pupils return to school.

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs SL. Woolley	01743 709652	head@st-lucias.shropshire.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Lead	Mrs S Brennan	01743 709652	class3@st-lucias.shropshire.sch.uk
	Mrs H Smith	01743 709652	class1@st-lucias.shropshire.sch.uk

Additional Contacts: Mr P Jarvis Safeguarding link governor

What is the definition of vulnerable children in relation to this guidance?

Those who have a social worker including children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority. A child may also 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.

or

Those children where professionals are concerned that they may be at increased risk of significant harm if they are not in school; this could be due to contextual safeguarding issues or existing or new pressures within a family household.

1.Designated Safeguarding Lead

St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs S.L Woolley

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs S Brennan and Mrs H Smith (and Miss J. Reacord for Nursery)

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.

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 records and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social care where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments.

It is important that all St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, the staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to contact them.

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

The DSL (or deputy) should provide support to teachers and pastoral staff to ensure that contact is maintained with children (and their families) who are not yet returning to school or college. Where possible staff should try and speak directly to children to help identify any concerns. Staff should be encouraged (wherever possible) to make calls from the school or college site via school or college phones and devices.

2. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy.

If a member of staff cannot access children's safeguarding records from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher. This will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Our School recognises that there will be challenges as children start to return to school after lockdown. St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery will ensure that there are opportunities for staff members to have conversations with children to discuss their

experience of being at home during lockdown and any worries or concerns through 1:1 conversations.

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 done verbally and followed up with an email to the Headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Mr P. Jarvis.

3. Safeguarding training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus. (Shropshire will be delivering DSL update training from June 2020).

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.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). 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 in time, or new volunteers enters. Lucia's C.E. Primary School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. The school will look to minimise the number of volunteers and only used established volunteers where necessary.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

The DSLs (and deputies) at St.Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery will continue to do what they reasonably can to keep up to date with safeguarding developments, via weekly updates, newsletters and professional advice groups.

4. 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, St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery 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).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS identification checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

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 all safer recruitment checks set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019, including an enhanced DBS and children’s barred list check
- the individual has been subject to relevant child protection training
- there are no known concerns about the individual’s suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual.

There is no requirement to obtain a new DBS check for returning staff who have continued to be employed but have not been working in regulated activity during partial school closures. If for any reason the school have concerns about the individual, they may obtain a new check in the usual way.

Where St. Lucia’s C.E. Primary School and Nursery 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.

St. Lucia’s C.E. Primary School and Nursery 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. St. Lucia’s C.E. Primary School and Nursery 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, St. Lucia’s C.E. Primary School and Nursery will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

5. Managing contact with pupils and families

5.1 Assessment of risk

All vulnerable pupils should be identified by school/setting based on potential risk and gradings given to those pupils in order of priority: Red, Amber, Green.

Red – most risk of harm or neglect and fewest protective factors (would include those with a child protection plan/LAC/identified as being at risk of Criminal Exploitation/identified as being at risk of exposure to Domestic Abuse within the household)

Amber – a moderate risk of harm, but with some protective factors (would include those identified as ‘Child in Need’; and those with a social worker)

Green – some concerns escalating or unmet needs; or have been red or amber and require monitoring.

These levels would be specific to your school and be based on factors that relate to those pupils within your catchment. You may not have any pupils who fall into the above categories (CP/CIN) but can still be graded using the above flagging system. You may also consider adding your pupils with SEND into these categories.

If a child has an allocated social worker, it is advised that you liaise with that person to ensure that they are aware of whether the child is attending school or not and to agree the level of contact required and how this is carried out.

Pupils can be moved between the categories, depending on the intelligence and information available to your setting. If schools need to close, risk factors may be higher and may warrant a higher grade than usual.

5.2 Suggested contact for vulnerable pupils

RED

- Regular email or other appropriate contact via telephone to parents/carers to notify them of school updates and provide parents with information to signpost for support,
- Through the regular contact, explore if any further support is required to ascertain that the pupil is safe. Ideally, this would be undertaken by the Designated Safeguarding Lead but if this is not possible, then a Deputy DSL or other appropriate member of the school staff.
- Any information or intelligence to support that a child may be at potential risk, to be reported to the designated social worker.

AMBER

- Regular email or other appropriate contact via telephone, to parents to notify them of school updates and provide parents with information to signpost for support
- Through the regular contact explore if any further support is required and that the pupil is safe. Ideally, this would be undertaken by the Designated Safeguarding Lead but if this is not possible, then a Deputy DSL or other appropriate member of school staff
- Any information or intelligence to support that a child may be at potential risk, to be reported to the designated social worker

GREEN

- Regular email or other appropriate contact to parents to notify them of school updates and provide parents with information to signpost for support. No further contact required.

The main school emails will be used which parents are familiar with if contact needed to be made if they have any worries or concerns relating to themselves or others.

5.3 Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

For the most vulnerable pupils, staff should attend CP and CIN meetings where possible. These are currently being held remotely. If you are unable to attend, it is vital that a report is submitted.

Strategy meetings also continue to be held and DSLs should undertake their duties in the same way as before, but meetings will be held virtually.

For advice relating to reporting procedures, please refer to your school/setting Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

5.6 Conducting 'Virtual' contact with children and their families

All use of technology should continue to be in line with schools' e-safety policies.

A written record of all contact with vulnerable pupils and their parents/carers should be made and retained in accordance with current regulations. This record should include:

- Any concerns or worries raised by the child (speak directly to them.)
- Any concerns or worries raised by the parent/carer
- Summarise the situation as reported
- Note any actions that need to be undertaken

When contact is made using telephones or social media platforms or apps, where possible, please use school equipment, rather than personal devices.

Please ensure that children and parents/carers are appropriately dressed and in a communal area of their home. No interaction should take place if the child is in a bedroom or bathroom.

Staff should be mindful of confidentiality and, under no circumstances, should they carry out any conversations in the presence of their own family members at home.

Staff should be appropriately dressed following the same dress code that is implemented in their usual workplace.

Staff need to be aware of their surroundings and what can be viewed in their home environment. If possible, they should use the background 'dimming' facility on video links.

In the same way as home visits, if there are concerns around sole contact with a child or parent/carer, schools could consider having joint contact through call conferencing facilities.

6. School 'attendance' and engagement

If a child is expected to attend school but does not arrive, normal procedures should be followed.

If school staff are not able to make contact with the parent/carer, keep trying for the rest of the school day. Follow usual Education Welfare procedures for children not in school and alert the DSL if you are a deputy DSL.

If children are being cared for and educated at home and routine contact is not maintained or a parent/carer does not engage, you should take all reasonable steps to speak to the parent/carer. If this is not successful, please inform the School's assigned Education Welfare Officer.

Education Welfare Officers will be in regular contact with schools to monitor engagement with distance learning arrangements and to review the attendance of vulnerable children.

Schools should continue to notify social workers where children with a social worker do not attend. They should also continue to follow non-attendance procedures with any parent or carer whose child has been expected to attend and doesn't. To support the above, schools and colleges should take the opportunity when communicating with parents and carers to confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

Parents and carers will not be penalised if their child does not attend educational provision. Section 444(1) and 1(A) of the Education 1996 has been disapplied and will be reviewed on 31st May 2020.

Schools should resume taking their attendance register from 1 June and continue to complete the online Educational Setting Status form which gives the Department for Education daily updates on how many children and staff are attending.

If you have concerns of significant harm report to the named Social Worker or contact FPOC on 0345 6789021. If you feel the child is at risk of immediate harm report to police. For non-urgent welfare concerns, with parental consent, you can email the MARF to compass.referrals@shropshire.gov.uk

7. Online safety in St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery

St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery 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 St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery

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

Any remote teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the school's code of conduct.

St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

The principles set out in the [guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings](#) published by the Safer Recruitment Consortium will be referred to in order to help schools satisfy themselves that their staff behaviour policies are robust and effective.

There is no expectation that teachers should live stream or provide pre-recorded videos. Schools should consider the approaches that best suit the needs of their children and staff.

Staff will only use work email addresses to communicate with others for professional communications. The school website may provide a portal for sharing work if required.

As more children return it will be important that schools continue to provide a safe online environment for those who remain at home. E-Safety information and resources have been provided for parents and children via the class pages and COVID-19 updates on the school's website to remind parents to monitor children's online usage etc.

We signpost parents/carers to the following websites for advice and guidance. (Please add to or delete those that you do not use):

- [Thinkuknow](#)
- [Parent info](#)
- [E-Bug resources](#)
- [Internet Matters](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online harms](#)

You may also want to give examples of websites that you are using to support your governing body/proprietors to assure themselves that any new arrangements continue to effectively safeguard children online e.g.

[UK Safer Internet Centre's professional online safety helpline](#)
[NSPCC Learning website](#)
[Weekly updates from Andrew Hall](#)

St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School will seek IT support through the Shropshire Council SITSS service to maintain safe IT arrangements.

8. Supporting children in school

St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery will be assessing all health and safety risks in line with government guidance.

St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all its students.

St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery 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 ratios are appropriate, to maximise safety.

St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery 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.

St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery 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 on the child's safeguarding file.

St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery will update the current Behaviour policy with an addendum for use during the arrangements for education of students in school during the Covid-19 partial school closures. It is to be used in conjunction with, and read alongside, the

Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, E-Safety Policy and Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy using guidance from Shropshire Education Access Service.

9. Peer-on-peer Abuse

St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery 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 Child Protection & Safeguarding policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partners required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on the child's safeguarding record and appropriate referrals made.

10. Supporting children's mental health and well-being

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of children and their parents. Mental Health and Well-Being will therefore be a priority during the care of critical workers and following the wider schools re-opening from early June.

DfE guidance on [mental health and behaviour in schools](#) will be used to help with identifying children who might need additional support, and to put this support in place. The guidance sets out how mental health issues can bring about changes in a child's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, all of which could be an indication of an underlying problem. This can include for example being fearful or withdrawn; aggressive or oppositional; or excessive clinginess. St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery will support children by focusing on mental health and well-being, implementing already familiar strategies and support for children, including positive mind set, mindfulness and relaxation. Any individual pupil where particular concerns have been expressed may be signposted to the Early Help services for additional support where appropriate.

Teachers should be aware of the impact the current circumstances can have on the mental health of those pupils (and their parents) who are continuing to work from home, including when setting expectations of childrens' work. The department has provided separate [guidance on remote education practices](#) during the coronavirus outbreak. St. Lucia's C.E. Primary School and Nursery has tried to provide flexible home learning to support different families' circumstances via the class pages of the school website.

For further information please contact:

Jane Parsons jane.parsons@shropshire.gov.uk or Caroline Ewels caroline.ewels@shropshire.gov.uk

If your query relates to Early Years settings, please contact Fiona Purslow fiona.purslow@shropshire.gov.uk