



BREDON  
SCHOOL

Addendum

COVID-19 Arrangements  
Safeguarding and Child Protection

Date: September 2021  
Author: Deputy Head Pastoral  
Review Cycle: Annually or as required  
Next Review Date: September 2022 or as required



## **Key contacts**

### **Safeguarding Contact numbers**

Mr Tom Butt, Deputy Head Pastoral and Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) can be contacted on 01684 293156/07920 548531.

Supporting the DSL are the following members of staff acting as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs), all of whom are trained to the same level:

Mr Alisdair Cradock, Jarrett Housemaster, 07398623869  
Mr Ben Phillips, Sharp Housemaster, 07398584485  
Mr Jon Richardson, Thomas Housemaster, 07398623871  
Miss Charmain Eaton, Senior School Teacher, 07398840427  
Mrs Jill Blakeney, School Nurse, 07943271713  
Mrs Carey Allen, School Nurse, 07943271713  
Mrs Pip Adams, Head of 6th Form  
Mr Josh Stafford, Head of the Junior School, 07496697595  
Mrs Sue Dickson, Junior School Teacher  
Miss Amber Gamble, Junior School Teacher

In addition to the staff above, who cover safeguarding arrangements during the school day, there is also a group of boarding staff trained as DDSLs. They are as follows:

Mr Rob Starr, Director of Boarding, Tyndale Houseparent, 07398840423  
Mrs Nicola Starr, Tyndale Houseparent  
Miss Lucy Hodkinson, Stable House Housemistress, 07398840424  
Mr John Kerr, Assistant Houseparent  
Miss Rebecca Glover, Assistant Houseparent

The Headmaster is Mr Nick Oldham who can be contacted on 01684 293156

The Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding is Mr Stephen Aiano who can be contacted on 07798645666.



## **Context**

On 20th March 2020 parents and guardians were asked by the government to keep their children at home, wherever possible.

There then followed a long period of time where the majority of children learned at home, remotely, with the school remaining open for children of key workers and those particularly vulnerable.

Since then, the situation in the UK, due largely to the successful vaccination programme has markedly improved and from September 2021 schools have returned to a far more “normal” way of working.

This addendum of the Safeguarding Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements applicable to a period of remote learning.

## **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 an ongoing place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead, 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.

Our 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 will be Kelly Weston.



## BREDON SCHOOL

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 our team will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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

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

### **Attendance monitoring**

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

With social workers, senior school leaders will agree with parents/carers whether vulnerable children should be attending school – the school will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

To support the above, the 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 does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, the school will notify their social worker.

For those who are attending school remotely and learning from home, their attendance will also be monitored and the principles of following up non-engagement / non-attendance will be followed to ensure we are fulfilling our safeguarding obligations.

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Our school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is supported by a number of deputies (DDSLs, details on Page 2)

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site whenever there are one or more children in attendance. Where this is not the case a trained



## BREDON SCHOOL

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 coordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing access to safeguarding management systems, and liaising with the 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.

It is important that all 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.

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

### **Reporting a concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school's *Safeguarding Policy*, and use our MyConcern platform to do so.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot use the usual reporting systems from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headmaster. They must also gain confirmation via phone, Email reply or similar to confirm the concern has been received successfully.

If no confirmation of receipt is promptly forthcoming, the staff member should notify the allocated Safeguarding Governor without delay.

Staff are reminded of (and trained in) 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 Headmaster. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headmaster whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Headmaster.



## BREDON SCHOOL

Concerns around the Headmaster should be directed to the Chairman of Governors.

### **Safeguarding Training and induction**

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021), and completed an understanding questionnaire. 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 begin at the school, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction and should complete the Educare Module relevant to the setting.

For movement within the group schools should seek assurance from the school that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training. 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.

### **Online safety in schools**

The school will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering and monitoring system.

Where pupils 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 Safeguarding 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 School's code of conduct.

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

Remote teaching and learning is conducted in accordance with Government guidance and advice; see the links below:

- [Adapting teaching practice for remote education](#)
- [Remote education blended delivery case studies](#)
- [Remote education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Remote education good practice](#)
- [Remote education research](#)

- Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19)
- What's working well in remote education

## **Supporting children not in school**

The 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, as should a record of any contact made.

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

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. Parents also receive a half-termly update from the Deputy Head Pastoral.

Our 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 our school need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Our 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.

## **Supporting children in school**

Our school is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils and will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish, albeit in person or remotely.

The Headmaster will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Our 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.



# BREDON

## SCHOOL

Our 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 our school has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – will discuss them immediately with the Group Managing Director.

### **Peer on Peer Abuse**

Our school recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Staff should follow the guidance as laid out in the Safeguarding Policy where there is a report of peer on peer abuse.