



Church of the Ascension Primary School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Policy Addendum - COVID-19 : School Wider Opening Arrangements

Context

From the week commencing 1 June, Church of the Ascension Primary School expects to be able to welcome back more children to school. (See guidance on actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020 for more details.)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

The department has also published guidance on implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings to support this.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (KCSIE) is statutory safeguarding guidance that schools and colleges should continue to have regard to as required by legislation and/or their funding agreements.

This addendum of Church of the Ascension Primary School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy contains details of any changes or additions to the safeguarding arrangements outlined in the substantive policy. All other arrangements remain as detailed in the substantive Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

1. Staff are to be alert to identify any new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they see them in person following partial school closure.
2. Staff are to keep themselves updated with any safeguarding updates and new guidance and are aware that Church of the Ascension School's safeguarding arrangements may be subject to change, therefore should make themselves aware of any potential new procedures during unprecedented times.
3. The DSL will have capacity to support an increase in new concerns (and referrals as appropriate) as more children return.

4. The school will ensure that relevant safeguarding and welfare information held on all children (including returning children) remains accurate. The school will ask parents and carers to advise them of any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that they should be aware of before a child returns.
5. Church of the Ascension Primary School has a clear reporting process for parents/carers to inform staff that their child has suspected symptoms of COVID19 or feels unwell. Staff will support parents/carers following the advice set out by Public Health England.
6. Changes to DSL (and deputy) arrangements - the school aims to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case (e.g. because clinically vulnerable staff are working from home) a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to contact via phone or online video (e.g. via Zoom or Teams)
7. Vulnerable children for the purposes of continued attendance during the coronavirus outbreak are those across all year groups who:
 - are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children 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 and it is determined, following risk assessment ([risk assessment guidance](#)), that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
 - have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued attendance. This might include children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training'), those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers and others at the provider and local authority's discretion.(Read more in the guidance on [vulnerable children and young people](#).)
8. Arrangements are in place to keep children who are not physically attending the school safe, particularly online, and how concerns about these children are reported.
9. Supporting Children in School – Church of the Ascension Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils. The school will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish in line with implementing protective measures guidance and follow advice from Public Health England on sanitation, social distancing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.
10. Supporting Children Away from School - Church of the Ascension Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils. 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 effective communication remains in place for that child or young person. Details of all contacts must be recorded on the standard pink concerns form. Communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, doorstep visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded. Church of the Ascension Primary School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan. Where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.
11. Church of the Ascension Primary 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 Church of the Ascension Primary School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

12. Children and Online Safety away from school - staff and volunteers should be aware of the clear reporting routes for children to raise any concerns whilst working online and are able to signpost children to age appropriate practical support from:

- [Childline](#) - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse

Church of the Ascension Primary School will ensure 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 continue to be made to children's social care and as required the police.

Remote Education - [guidance on safeguarding and remote education](#) to support schools and colleges plan lessons safely.

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

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=cc90fb4d-85d1-4c41-837a-dd29a3eccbc2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

13. Online Safety in Schools - All staff should continue to consider the safety of their children when they are asked to work online. Online teaching 'do's and don'ts' should be the same principles as set out in the school's staff code of conduct and should be followed. Communication with parents and carers should continue to be used to reinforce the importance of children being safe online. It will be especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and be clear which members of school staff (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online. Support for parents:

- [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- [Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Internet Matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC and O2, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services
- [support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online harms](#), includes advice about specific harms such as online child sexual abuse, sexting, and cyberbullying

- [support to stay safe online](#) includes security and privacy settings, blocking unsuitable content, and parental controls
14. Church of the Ascension Primary School will continue to work with local safeguarding partners and receive any updated advice. The DSL will liaise with the local Safeguarding in Education Reference Group (SERG) representative (Sarah Sprouting – ssprouting@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk) on matters of policy or practice which require a co-ordinated approach by the L.A./Children’s Services.
 15. Church of the Ascension Primary School will work with and receive any updated advice from local authorities regarding children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children’s social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need
 16. Attendance - Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know our most vulnerable children. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children’s social care support. DSL staff should continue to notify social workers where children with a social worker do not attend. They should also continue to follow up with any parent or carer whose child is expected to attend and does not. In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, DSL staff will notify their social worker.
Church of the Ascension Primary School should have at least two emergency contacts to enable communicating with parents and carers and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are not available.
Parents and carers will not be penalised if their child does not attend educational provision.
Church of the Ascension Primary School will take 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.
 17. Reporting a concern - where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the original school Safeguarding Policy; this includes making a report via CPOMS, which can be accessed remotely. 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 on the pink concerns form.

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