

AMENDED

COVID-19 arrangements for safeguarding and child protection at The Ridgeway CE Primary School

School name: The Ridgeway CE Primary School

Policy owner: William Webb

Date: June 2020

Date shared with governors and trustees: 25.6.20

Date shared with staff: June 2020

Adapted by Alison Beasley, Designated Officer and Manager of the Education
Safeguarding Advisory Team

With thanks to Louis Donald, Trust Safeguarding Manager at the Stowe Valley Multi
Academy Trust and Andrew Hall , <https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/andrew-hall>

This is also in line with DFE guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

1. Context

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.

Then on the 1st June schools were asked to invite back Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6 children in bubbles of no more than 15.

This addendum of the The Ridgeway CE Primary School Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas.

2. Key contacts

Role	Name	Phone	email
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	William Webb Headteacher	01235 751254	Head,3231@ridgeway.oxon.sch.uk
Deputy Designated safeguarding lead (DDSL)	Anna Cassidy – Out of hours lead		ACassidy@ridgeway.oxon.sch.uk
Chair of governors	Anthea Giltneane		c/o office.3231@ridgeway.oxon.sch.uk
Safeguarding governor	Sue Worth		c/o office.3231@ridgeway.oxon.sch.uk

3. 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.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

The Headteacher and 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.

The Ridgeway CE Primary 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: William Webb

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 The Ridgeway CE Primary School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. We as a school will ensure that all professionals involved with these vulnerable children, (e.g. social workers, SEND case workers, LCSS, Early Help worker etc) are fully informed around the current attendance of the child (attending school or not) and if not attending school the arrangements that we have put in place around safeguarding this child.

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

The Ridgeway CE Primary School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

4. Attendance monitoring

Stanford in the Vale have resumed taking the register for Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6 but schools do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

The Ridgeway CE Primary School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – William Webb will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. William Webb will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

This will be via a telephone conversation.

To support the above, The Ridgeway CE Primary 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 Ridgeway CE Primary School will notify their social worker.

The Department for Education has introduced a [daily online attendance form](#) to keep a record of children who are attending school. This allows for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allows schools to provide accurate, up-to-date data to the department on the number of children taking up places.

The attendance data will also be shared with the Local Authority attendance team Attendance@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

5. Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Ridgeway CE Primary School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: William Webb

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Anna Cassidy

A member of the DSL team will always be available during school hours. 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 designated member of staff will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include 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 or college.

It is important that all our staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of that person is and how to speak to them.

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

6. 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 our form through email to the Designated Safeguarding Lead / Headteacher or in person. This will 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 continue to follow our normal procedures and alert the headteacher immediately. The headteacher will follow normal allegation management procedures as detailed in Keeping Children Safe in Education and liaise with Oxfordshire's Local Authority Designated Officer; Alison Beasley, as detailed in our main policy. 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:
Janet Warren

7. Safeguarding Training and induction

All DSL training has been suspended by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board (OSCB) and it is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

Guidance from the OSCB can be found here <https://www.oscb.org.uk/learning-zone/training/>

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, or new volunteers enter our School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

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 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 (which will be similar to their current setting if an Oxfordshire school), confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

8. 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, The Ridgeway CE Primary 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 (2019) (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.

Where our 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.

The Ridgeway CE Primary 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, in line with advice from the LADO where appropriate.

The Ridgeway CE Primary 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, The Ridgeway CE Primary School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

9. Online safety in schools and colleges

The Ridgeway CE Primary 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.

10. 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.

The Ridgeway CE Primary 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 to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- 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 The Ridgeway CE Primary School to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

All staff at The Ridgeway CE Primary School will be reminded of the following policies:

- Staff code of conduct
- Acceptable users' policy
- Social media guidance

11. Supporting children not in school

The Ridgeway CE Primary 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, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

The Ridgeway CE Primary 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 maintain contact with children who are not yet returning to school. Staff will try to speak directly to children at home to help identify any concerns. They will use virtual lessons and school phones to make calls home. Or, if necessary they will use personal phones but they will withhold their personal number. Staff and volunteers will look out for signs like:

- Not completing assigned work or logging on to school systems
- No contact from children or families
- Seeming more withdrawn during any class check-ins or video calls

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

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

The Ridgeway CE Primary 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.

12. Supporting children in school

The Ridgeway CE Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

The Ridgeway CE Primary 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.

The Ridgeway CE Primary 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.

The Ridgeway CE Primary 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.

13. Peer on Peer Abuse

The Ridgeway CE Primary 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 multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded, and appropriate referrals made.

14. Mental health

Children returning to school

Staff and volunteers will be aware of the possible effects that this period may have had on pupils' mental health. They will look out for behavioural signs, including pupils being fearful, withdrawn, aggressive, oppositional or excessively clingy, to help identify where support may be needed.

The use of the school's HSCLW or ELSA can give support in school.

Children at home

Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils. The school's HSCLW, SENCo and Headteacher will offer support over the phone or in home gardens at a 2m distance.

We will also signpost all pupils, parents/carers and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

15. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the 3 local safeguarding partners, the LA or Department for Education is updated by William Webb, Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.