



COVID-19 arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Bagshot Infant School

Bagshot Infant School

Date: April 2020

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 who have a parent that is critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

As far as is reasonably possible Bagshot Infant School, will take a whole institution approach to safeguarding. This will allow us to satisfy ourselves that any new policies and processes in response to COVID-19 are not weakening our approach to safeguarding or undermining their child protection policy.

2. Key contacts

Role	Name	Phone	email
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Katie Aldred	01276 473385*	k.aldred@bagshot.surrey.sch.uk
Deputy Designated safeguarding lead (DDSL)	Ruth Putman	01276 473385	r.putman@bagshot.surrey.sch.uk
Deputy Designated safeguarding lead (DDSL)	Stephanie Milman	01276 473385	s.milman@bagshot.surrey.sch.uk
Chair of Governing Body	Steve Barker	01276 473385	chair@bagshot.surrey.sch.uk
Safeguarding governor	Steve Barker	01276 473385	chair@bagshot.surrey.sch.uk

****Please note: Mobile telephone numbers are shared amongst appropriate staff members during this time.***

2. 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 are subject to a Child Protection Plan, a Child in Need Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority.

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 Deputy Safeguarding Leads 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.

Bagshot Infant 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: **Katie Aldred**

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 and/or there is a formal agreement with the Social Worker. 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 Bagshot Infant 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, 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, Bagshot Infant School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

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

4. 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.

Vulnerable children are required to attend school every day including Looked After Children, Children subject to a Child Protection Plan and Children subject to a Child In Need Plan.

If a vulnerable child that is in this cohort is absent from school, we will follow the established local "absent from school" reporting mechanism for vulnerable children.

We will notify Surrey County Council on the first day of absence and any day following, of children that are absent from school by providing the following details:

School Name & Contact Person details

- Full Name of child

- Date of Birth of child
- When they were last seen by school staff

This must be submitted by email to: covidschoolattendance@surreycc.gov.uk

The Department for Education has introduced a daily online attendance form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable 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.

5. Designated Safeguarding Lead

Bagshot Infant School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and two Deputy DSLs. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Katie Aldred**. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: **Ruth Putman and Stephanie Milman**

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 senior 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 C-SPA.

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.

In dealing with allegations or concerns against an adult, staff must:

- Report any concerns about the conduct of any member of staff or volunteer to the Headteacher immediately.

- If an allegation is made against the Headteacher, the concerns need to be raised with the Chair of Governors as soon as possible. If the Chair of Governors is not available, then the LADO should be contacted directly.
- There may be situations when the Headteacher or Chair of Governors will want to involve the police immediately if the person is deemed to be an immediate risk to children or there is evidence of a possible criminal offence.
- Once an allegation has been received by the Headteacher or Chair of Governors they will contact the LADO on 0300123 1650 option 3 LADO Email: LADO@surreycc.gov.uk immediately and before taking any action or investigation.
- Following consultation and advice from the LADO inform the parents of the allegation unless there is a good reason not to

In liaison the LADO, the school will determine how to proceed and if necessary, the LADO will refer the matter to Children's Social Care and/or the police.

If the matter is investigated internally, the LADO will advise the school to seek guidance from local authority colleagues in following procedures set out in part 4 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2019) and the SSCP procedures.

7. Safeguarding Training and induction

All DSL training has been suspended by Surrey County Council Education Safeguarding Team and it is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus. 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 a Surrey 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, Bagshot Infant 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 is 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.

Bagshot Infant 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.

Bagshot Infant School will continue to consider and where necessary, 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, Bagshot Infant School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE. The SCR can also, be used to log details of any risk assessments carried out on volunteers and staff on loan from elsewhere.

9. Online safety in schools

Bagshot Infant School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of appropriate filters and online monitoring systems.

Where children 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.

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

All interaction with children will involve adherence to these principles:

- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms provided by Bagshot Infant School to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

All staff at Bagshot Infant School will be reminded of the following policies:

- Staff code of conduct
- Acceptable users' policy

11. Supporting children not in school

Bagshot Infant School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children.

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 effective 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. Bagshot Infant 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 share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages. Bagshot Infant 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. Staff at our school need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Bagshot Infant 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

Bagshot Infant School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. We 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.

Bagshot Infant 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. We 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

Bagshot Infant School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. If we receive a report of peer on peer abuse, we 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 child, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions will continue to be recorded, and appropriate referrals made.

All staff will be sent this additional policy to read and will sign to say they have read and understood the content. If staff are working from home, they will be asked to email confirming the above.