



Temporary Policy Addendum:

COVID-19 arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Brighstone CE Aided Primary School

This Policy addendum is effective from **8th March 2021**

School Name: Brighstone CE Aided Primary School

Owner: Melissa Jones – Designated Safeguarding, Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead

Date: 2/3/21

Context

On Monday 22nd February 2021, The Prime Minister announced the government’s roadmap to “cautiously ease” lockdown restrictions in England. This included a direction that from 8th March 2021, all pupils should attend school.

Brighstone Primary School will continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (as amended, Jan 2021).¹

We will ensure that where we care for children on site or at home, we have appropriate support in place for them.

We will take advice and work with the local safeguarding partners.

We will continue to use and update our risk assessment where necessary whilst using 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 coronavirus.

This addendum of the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Context | 2 |
| Vulnerable children | 3 |
| Attendance monitoring..... | 4 |
| Reporting a concern | 5 |
| Safeguarding Training and induction | 5 |
| Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff..... | 5 |
| Volunteers..... | 6 |
| Children and online safety away from school and college..... | 6 |
| Supporting children not in school as they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19) | 7 |
| Supporting children in school..... | 7 |
| Elective Home Education (EHE) | 8 |
| Contingency planning..... | 8 |

1

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954314/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2020 - Update - January 2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954314/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2020_-_Update_-_January_2021.pdf)

Key contacts

Remain as per the School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989², including children and young people 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;
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
 - others at our and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Brighstone 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. The lead person for this is Melissa Jones.

In circumstances where a parent is hesitant about or does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, Brighstone Primary School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent and liaise with the appropriate professionals.

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

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/17>

Attendance monitoring

Brighstone Primary School will encourage all pupils to attend school

Parents or carers are expected to contact the school on the first day of the illness and inform us of the reason for absence so that the correct attendance codes can be used in every case of absence. We expect parents or carers to make contact to make us aware of the status of any COVID-19 tests that have become necessary and to update the school on the welfare of the pupil. Parents will be reminded of this process, in the school newsletter, before the full return to school on 8th March.

From 8th March 2021, we will record attendance in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended)³ for all pupils.

Some pupils may still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms or have had a positive test result
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

The advice for pupils who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. They are advised not to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally.

For children self-isolating or quarantining or shielding – we will use the appropriate code as per current guidance, if the student does not attend or is unresponsive, a note will be added to the register.

In compliance with the Remote Education, Temporary Continuity Direction⁴ Brighstone Primary School will provide remote education to pupils who are unable to attend school because they are complying with government guidance or legislation around coronavirus (COVID-19).

In addition, we will offer pastoral support to pupils who are:

- self-isolating
- shielding
- vulnerable (and off-school)

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1751/contents/made>

⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/923539/Remote_Education_Temporary_Continuity_Direction_-_Explanatory_Note.pdf

The Department for Education expects schools to grant applications for leave in exceptional circumstances. This should be recorded as code C (leave of absence authorised by the school) unless another authorised absence code is more applicable.

Where pupils are not able to attend school, as they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19), the absence will be coded accordingly.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy; this includes making a report via MyConcern, which can be done remotely.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the headteacher.

Safeguarding Training and induction

All current school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL will 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 Brighstone Primary School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction and asked to read and understand the school's Volunteers policy.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

When recruiting new staff, Brighstone Primary School will continue to follow the safer recruitment processes as per the policy, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (as amended, Jan 2021).

Under no circumstances will a volunteer in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity. ⁵

⁵ Paragraph 183. Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (as amended, Jan 2021)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954314/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2020_-_Update_-_January_2021.pdf

Volunteers

Volunteers who, on an unsupervised basis provide personal care on a one-off basis in Brighstone Primary School, will be in regulated activity.

Existing volunteers in regulated activity do not have to be re-checked if they have already had a DBS check (which includes barred list information).

Supervision must be:

- by a person who is in regulated activity.
- regular and day to day; and
- reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children.

In appointing volunteers, the school will continue to follow safer recruitment processes.

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 and Child Protection 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 during the *school closure*.

Brighstone 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 if there are 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 bathrooms or bedrooms
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background
- Staff must only use platforms specified by senior leaders to communicate with pupils

Supporting children not in school as they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19)

Brighstone Primary 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 support in school, they should ensure that a plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded on MyConcern, and a record of any contact made also.

This plan will be reviewed periodically and the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

Brighstone Primary School recognises that school is a protective factor for some children, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers will take this into when setting expectations of pupils' work when they are at home.

Supporting children in school

Brighstone Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children. We will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend, thrive and flourish.

Brighstone Primary School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing⁶ and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19.

Brighstone Primary School will ensure that appropriate support is offered to all students with respect to their mental health and wellbeing. All staff will log any changes in behaviour they notice on MyConcern and liaise with the Designated Safeguarding, Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead Melissa Jones. Where necessary staff will complete a referral form for additional support needed available on the T:/Drive or from Melissa.

⁶https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

Elective Home Education (EHE)

Brighstone Primary School will encourage parents to send their children to school, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Where an application is made, Brighstone Primary School will consider whether a parent's decision to educate at home gives greater cause for concern compared to remaining in school.

Where we feel that there is additional cause for concern the Designated Safeguarding Lead will then consider making a referral to the local authority in line with existing procedures. This will happen as soon as Brighstone Primary School becomes aware of a parent's intention, or decision, to electively home educate.

Brighstone Primary School will work with local authorities and, where possible, coordinate meetings with parents to seek to ensure EHE is being provided in the best interests of the child.

Contingency planning

Brighstone Primary School will ensure that for individuals or groups of self-isolating pupils and pupils who are shielding, we follow government guidance related to coronavirus (COVID-19), remote education plans.

Brighstone Primary School will continue to operate as normally as possible. In the event that restrictions in schools are needed to help contain the spread of the virus, we will refer to the contingency framework⁷, which has been updated and outlines how schools should operate in the event of any restrictions.

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-contingency-framework-for-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings-excluding-universities>