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***STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL***

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**Safeguarding and Safeguarding and Child  
Protection Policy  
COVID-19 school arrangements**

THIS POLICY WAS APPROVED:	MAY 2020
THIS POLICY WAS SHARED WITH STAFF:	MAY 2020
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MEMBER OF STAFF WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR REVIEW:	CHRISTINE SPAIN

# **Stapleford Community Primary School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy COVID-19 school arrangements May 2020 revised addendum**

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## 1.Context

From 20 March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible and where it was safer to do to slow to spread of Covid-19. Many children will continue to remain at home during the initial stages of the phased return. However, from 1<sup>st</sup> June, we expect to be able to welcome more children back to Stapleford Community Primary School. Priority will continue to be given to providing school places for 'key worker' children (those children of workers critical to the Covid-19 response) and those classed as vulnerable, with an EHCP or have an allocated Social Worker.

This addendum of the Stapleford Community Primary School Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

The phased return has been carefully planned with reference to Department for Education guidance:

- Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020
- Implementing Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings
- Covid-19 Safeguarding in Schools, Colleges and Other Providers

Stapleford Community Primary School welcomes the keyworker and vulnerable pupils back to school on Monday 1st June. Subject to the '5 tests' being met, children in Nursery, reception, and Year 1 will return on Wednesday 3rd June, and those in Year 6 shortly afterwards when final numbers are confirmed.

This revised addendum of the Stapleford Community Primary School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements during this time, to protect all children, whether attending school or remaining at home, from harm and abuse.

Stapleford Community Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. The following safeguarding principles remain unchanged:

- The best interests of children must always continue to come first;
- If anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately;
- A DSL or deputy should be available;
- It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children;

- Children should continue to be protected when they are online.

## 2. Key contacts

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact number</b>	<b>Email</b>
Designated Safeguarding Lead + Head teacher	Christine Spain	01223 508720	Head@staplefordprimaryschool.org
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Jayne Hore	01223 508720	jhore@staplefordprimaryschool.org
Chair of Governors	Paul Izzett	01223 508720	pizzett@staplefordprimaryschool.org
Safeguarding Governor / Trustee	Ms Sue Speller	N/A	<a href="mailto:sspeller@anglianlearning.org">sspeller@anglianlearning.org</a>
Designated Teacher – Looked After Children	Christine Spain	01223 508720	as above

## 1. Supporting Children In School

Stapleford Community Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Stapleford Community Primary School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement protective measures including social distancing: [implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)

Stapleford Community 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.

We recognise that for some children the return to school after an extended period of time at home will be challenging and staff will support children to adjust to the necessary changes to the school environment and routines. Supporting pupil wellbeing will be at the forefront of our approach and school staff will seek to provide reassurance to pupils as we manage the transition period. Staff will talk to the children about the changes to the school day in an age appropriate manner, acknowledge and listen to pupil anxieties and support children to understand the altered routines.

Stapleford Community Primary School recognises that the current circumstances may adversely affect the mental health of children and their parents. School staff have been briefed to look out for changes in behaviour or in a child's emotional state, which could range from being excessively clingy, fearful, withdrawn or aggressive as more children return to school. As always, pupil wellbeing is at the heart of our work, and school staff will seek to provide appropriate support for pupils both in school and where required from specialist services.

Stapleford Community Primary School recognises that for some children, home may not be a safe space, and there may be children who are relieved to return to school. School staff have been reminded of the need to respond sensitively to pupils' differing experiences during the period of school closure. School staff have been asked to be particularly vigilant, as more children return to school, for signs and indicators that a child may have experienced abuse or neglect. School staff have been trained about how to handle a disclosure from a child, and understand that any safeguarding concerns, including those that relate to the period of school closure, must be referred immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputies) in the usual way.

Prior to children returning to school, parents and carers will be asked to ensure that all personal details held by the school, such as emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available. At this time, parents and carers will also be asked to advise the school if there are any changes regarding the child's welfare, health and wellbeing that it would help school to be made aware of. Where the school is aware of particular circumstances affecting a

child or family, such as bereavement, a relationship breakdown, an incident of domestic violence, this will be shared with staff on a need-to-know basis so that children can be best supported.

Where the school has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – The Headteacher will discuss them immediately with the Trust.

The school continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of Covid-19.

## **2. Supporting Children Not in School**

Stapleford Community Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and young people.

Stapleford Community Primary School recognise that some children will not be eligible to return to school immediately due to the phased nature of re-opening, and that some parents/carers of children eligible to attend may choose not to send them to school at this time.

The school is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and young people.

Where the DSL and other pupil support have identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they will ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Pupils will be identified depending on need and RAG'ed accordingly. RAG'ing is not 'fixed' and children and young people can move between levels. All contact must be dated and recorded on the schools closure: Pupil Planning document.

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

If we are unable to contact a child about whom there have been concerns after a reasonable number of attempts, we may need to seek further advice about safe and well checks.

DSL and other pupil support staff will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

The planning document will be accessed daily by support staff, DSL and Inclusion teams and individual cases will be reviewed and discussed as necessary. Where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share and relevant safeguarding updates via In-touch and/or on the school website. [www.staplefordprimaryschool.org](http://www.staplefordprimaryschool.org)

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

### **3. Vulnerable children**

All vulnerable children continue to be eligible to attend school full time during the period of phased opening. This applies regardless of whether their year group is due to return to school as part of the phased return, and regardless of whether they had chosen to access school provision prior to the phased return.

Vulnerable children include those 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 template](#)) 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 school and local authority's discretion

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.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and deputy know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those about whom there have been concerns but not currently open to Social Care.

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

Stapleford Community 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: the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a Social Worker will attend an education setting, unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable. 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 relevant support staff will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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

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

#### **4. Attendance monitoring**

Stapleford Community Primary School will resume taking attendance registers 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: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>. Stapleford Community Primary School is also sending this information to the Local Authority via a local survey to inform local planning for children in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough,

Stapleford Community Primary School will continue to follow up with any parent/carer if they were expecting the child to attend and they subsequently do not attend school. Non-attendance will be followed up in line with the school's normal attendance protocols. Notably office staff will ring the ppil on the first day of absence to ascertain the reason for the absence and record it accordingly. If there is no answer, a second call and /or email will be sent..

Stapleford Community Primary School will continue to inform Children's Social Care if a child with a Social Worker does not attend school.

#### **5. Designated Safeguarding Lead**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Christine Spain

Contact details: 01223 598720

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Jayne Hore

Contact details: 01223 508720

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 senior leader will assume responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site and can be contacted via the schools reception on : 01223 508720



The DSL/Senior Leader on site will liaise with the offsite DSL (or deputy) as required should a concern be raised by staff working on site that a young person has been identified as being at risk of significant harm. DSL (deputy) will continue 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.

The schools identified support staff and where necessary the DSL (deputy) will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

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

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.

## **6. Reporting a concern**

All concerns will continue to be logged on MyConcern (or schools identified means of reporting) and staff should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy. MyConcern will be monitored by the school's Safeguarding team in the usual manner.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access MyConcern from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy and Year Lead. 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 report the concern to the Headteacher according to the Safeguarding and Child Protection 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 Head.

Concerns around the Head should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Paul Izzett: [pizzett@staplefordprimaryschool.org](mailto:pizzett@staplefordprimaryschool.org)

## **7. Safeguarding Training and induction**

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus. In the interim, Designated Safeguarding Leads continue to keep themselves up to date with safeguarding developments through updates from the Education Safeguarding Team, accessing the Knowledge Hub and via the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board communications and website.

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. The Local Authority Education Safeguarding Team is providing advice and guidance, where needed, to schools through a dedicated helpline; 01223 507192/7

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 (see appendix A)

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter the school, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

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.

## **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 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.

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

There is no requirement to obtain a new DBS check for returning staff who have continued to be employed but have not been working in regulated activity during partial school closures. If for any reason the school have concerns about an individual, new checks will be obtained in the usual way.

Should the school need to utilise volunteers, it 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 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.

*Should it become necessary to be deploy staff to support in other educational settings the receiving school must ensure that visiting staff:*

- *Are made aware of who the schools DSL (and Deputy) are and how to contact them*
- *Are shown how to make logs of concerns (assuming they will not have access to MyConcern)*
- *Will sign in and out each day at an allotted location*
- *Have access to a computer should they need to log any concerns pertaining to children in their school.*

Stapleford Community 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](mailto: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, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, the school will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

[Schools who are required to 'loan' staff from other institutions during the period of phased opening may wish to include the following:

The SCR will log everyone that will be working or volunteering in school on any given day, including any staff who may be on loan from other institutions. The SCR will log details of any risk assessments carried out on volunteers and staff on loan from elsewhere.]

## **9. Online safety in schools and colleges**

Stapleford Community Primary School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of the school online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

## **10. 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 Child Protection

Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

As always, there are huge benefits to be gained from the appropriate use of technology, and accessing learning resources whilst at home is a great example of this. However, parents (and teachers) need to be aware of the potential risks that go along with this.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the *AL Code of Conduct for all Adults* and the *Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those Working with Children and Young People in Educational Settings (May 2019)*. Both documents can be found on MyConcern-resources-local policies.

The school will ensure any use of online learning tools such as Google Classrooms are in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

*Currently the use of video lessons is not permitted. Recording of lessons is also prohibited.*

Parents can access the E-safety Policy via the school website.

## **11. Peer on Peer Abuse**

The 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 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 on MyConcern and appropriate referrals made.

## **12. Radicalisation**

School staff have received training about Prevent. The school has a Prevent Lead:Christine Spain. All school staff are aware of the need to treat concerns about radicalisation as safeguarding concerns, and immediately share them with their Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputies). DSLs continue to refer concerns about radicalisation to partner agencies, including Channel Panel which remains operational, in line with usual procedures.

The Department for Education has also published information here on [prevent management support for schools and colleges](#).

## **13. Children moving schools**

We may be asked to provide a temporary place for a child who normally attends another school.

As always, where children join our school from other settings we will seek confirmation from the DSL whether they have a Safeguarding File or SEN statement/EHCP. This file must be provided securely before the child begins at our school and a call made from our DSL (or deputy) to the placing school's DSL to discuss how best to keep the child safe

In some unusual circumstance this may not be possible. Information provided must include contact details for any appointed Social Worker and where relevant for the Virtual School Head.

Safeguarding information about children placed in our school will be recorded on our safeguarding system, will be securely copied to the placing school DSL and will be securely returned to the placing school on completion of the child's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the child.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment in respect of any new information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know about the information. This will be recorded on our safeguarding recording system.

#### **14. Trust support:**

The Anglian Learning Safeguarding Team (ALST) comprises of senior staff and DSL's across all Trust schools. They work collaboratively to ensure the safety of all children and young people within the Trust and are able to offer support and guidance to staff. Should you need to contact your schools ALST member then please do email your schools DSL in the first instance.

If you require clarity or additional information on any aspects outlined in the above addendum then please do contact the Trust Safeguarding systems lead; Ms Sam Abbs [sabbs@sawstonvc.org](mailto:sabbs@sawstonvc.org)

***Policy approved by the Local Governing Body May 2020***

***Review: Autumn 2020***