



Child Protection and Safeguarding: COVID-19 addendum April 2020

DANSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Important contacts

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)	Ms L Casey (Head Teacher)	office@danson.bexley.sch.uk 02083031858
Deputy DSL	Mrs L Hunter (DHT) Ms S Sangani (AHT/KS2) Mrs Davis (SLT/SENCO) Mrs O'Hara (SLT/EYFS) Mrs Bonner (SLT/KS1) Mrs Stevens (SLT/OM) Mrs Evans (EYFS) Miss McCulloch (KS1) Mrs Stephens (KS2) Miss Odd (KS2) Miss Jones (KS2) Mrs Meredith (WAL)	As above
Designated member of senior leadership team if DSL (and deputy) can't be on site	As above on weekly rotation-refer to schedule	
Headteacher	L Casey	office@danson.bexley.sch.uk
Local authority designated officer (LADO)	Roz Uter	0203 045 3436 (LADO Team)
Chair of Governors	M Egelton	office@danson.bexley.sch.uk

1. Scope and definitions

This addendum applies during the period of school closure due to COVID-19, and reflects updated advice from the Dfe and Bexley Local Authority.

It sets out changes to our normal child protection policy in light of the Department for Education's guidance [Coronavirus: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#), and should be read in conjunction with that policy.

Unless covered here, our normal child protection policy continues to apply.

The Department for Education's (DfE's) definition of 'vulnerable children' includes those who:

- Have a social worker, including children:
 - With a child protection plan
 - Assessed as being in need
 - Looked after by the local authority
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

2. Core safeguarding principles

We will still have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

Although we are operating in a different way to normal, we are still following these important safeguarding principles:

- The best interests of children must come first
- If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act on it immediately
- A designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy should be available at all times (see section 4 for details of our arrangements)
- It's essential that unsuitable people don't enter the school workforce or gain access to children
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online

3. Reporting concerns

All staff and volunteers must continue to act on any concerns they have about a child immediately. It is still vitally important to do this, both for children still attending school and those at home.

As a reminder, all staff should continue to work with and support children's social workers, where they have one, to help protect vulnerable children.

4. DSL (and deputy) arrangements

We aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible. Details of all important contacts are listed in the 'Important contacts' section at the start of this addendum.

We will keep all school staff and volunteers informed by email as to who will be the DSL (or deputy) on any given day, and how to contact them.

We will ensure that DSLs (and deputies), wherever their location, know who the most vulnerable children in our school are.

5. Working with other agencies

We will continue to work with children's social care, and with virtual school heads for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

We will continue to update this addendum where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- DfE
- The local authority about 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

6. Monitoring attendance

As most children will not be attending school during this period of school closure, we will not be completing our usual attendance registers or following our usual procedures to follow up on non-attendance.

The exception to this is where any child we expect to attend school during the closure doesn't attend, or stops attending. In these cases we will:

- Follow up on their absence with their parents or carers, by email/telephone conversation
- Notify their social worker, where they have one

We are using the Department for Education's and Bexley's daily online attendance form to keep an accurate record of who is attending school.

We will make arrangements with parents and carers to make sure we have up-to-date emergency contact details, and additional contact details where possible on Arbor and have written confirmation to the designated key worker email-keyworker@danson.bexley.sch.uk

7. Peer-on-peer abuse

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education when managing reports and supporting victims of peer-on-peer abuse.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately – about both children attending school and those at home.

8. Concerns about a staff member or volunteer

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately – whether those concerns are about staff/volunteers working on site or remotely as per the Whistleblowing Policy.

9. Support for children who aren't 'vulnerable' but where we have concerns

We have the option to offer places in school to children who don't meet the Department for Education's definition of 'vulnerable', but who we have safeguarding concerns about. We will work with parents/carers to do this. If these children will not be attending school, we will put a contact plan in place, as explained in section 10 below.

10. Contact plans

We have contact plans for children with a social worker and children who we have safeguarding concerns about, for circumstances where:

- They won't be attending school (for example where the school, parent/carer and social worker, if relevant, have decided together that this wouldn't be in the child's best interests); or
- They would usually attend but have to self-isolate

Each child has an individual plan, which sets with the social worker

- How often the school will make contact – this will be at least once a week
- Which staff member(s) will make contact – Via telephone
- How staff will make contact –Via Telephone

We have agreed these plans with children's social care where relevant, and will review them on a fortnightly basis. If we can't make contact, we will continue to repeat call until contact is made. If not make contact with the Social Worker so that a doorstep call can be made.

11. Safeguarding all children

Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time potentially puts all children at greater risk.

Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on concerns immediately in line with the procedures set out in section 3 above

For children at home, they will look out for signs like:

- Not completing assigned work or logging on to school systems-Logs will be kept by class teachers with updates via google meets.
- No contact from children or families-Logs will be kept by class teachers with updates via google meets.
- Seeming more withdrawn during any class check-ins-Monitoring by class teachers-Bereavement/SMEH support.

Pupil Premium families will be called to ascertain that e vouchers have been sourced and to check in with how the children are getting on with their virtual classrooms and platforms.

EWO will follow up with families who had low attendance before lockdown to check in with how the children are getting on with their virtual classrooms.

Specific text messages will be sent to families who have not consistently been engaging.

Phone calls will be made to families who have yet to engage following text message.

12. Online safety

12.1 In school

We will continue to have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place in school.

If IT staff are available remotely to VPN with any technical issues.

12.2 Outside school

Where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow our existing staff behaviour policy/code of conduct/IT acceptable use policy.

[Any video recordings created for learning purposes will not have the face of the members of visible]

Staff will continue to be alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm online, and act on any concerns immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out in section 3 of this addendum.

We will make sure children know how to report any concerns they have back to our school, and signpost them to other sources of support too.

13 Working with parents and carers

We will make sure parents and carers:

- Are aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of staying safe online.-
Online safety/#WakeupWednesday
- Know what our school is asking children to do online, including what sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school. (Google Classroom/Bug Club/TTRS/Numbots)
- Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

13. Mental health

Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils. Circle times via Google Classroom/Mindful packs were sent home with each pupil.

We will also signpost all pupils, parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time-Pascal B-Resources from LA.

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.- Regularly referenced in communication from HT to parents.

14. Staff recruitment, training and induction

14.1 Recruiting new staff and volunteers

We continue to recognise the importance of robust safer recruitment procedures, so that adults and volunteers who work in our school are safe to work with children.

We will continue to follow our safer recruitment procedures, and part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

In urgent cases, when validating proof of identity documents to apply for a DBS check, we will initially accept verification of scanned documents via online video link, rather than being in physical possession of the original documents. This approach is in line with revised guidance from the DBS.

New staff must still present the original documents when they first attend work at our school.

We will continue to do our usual checks on new volunteers, and do risk assessments to decide whether volunteers who aren't in regulated activity should have an enhanced DBS check, in accordance with paragraphs 167-172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

14.3 Safeguarding induction and training

We will make sure staff and volunteers are aware of changes to our procedures and local arrangements.

New staff and volunteers will continue to receive:

- A safeguarding induction
- A copy of our children protection policy (and this addendum)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education part 1

We will decide on a case-by-case basis what level of safeguarding induction staff 'on loan' need. In most cases, this will be:

- A copy of our child protection policy and this addendum
- Confirmation of local processes
- Confirmation of DSL arrangements

14.4 Keeping records of who's on site

We will keep a record of which staff and volunteers are on site each day, and that appropriate checks have been carried out for them. (Inventory and Construction Log book.)

We will continue to keep our single central record up to date.

15. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the LA or DfE is updated. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

17. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Child protection policy
- Staff code of conduct
- IT acceptable use policy
- Health and safety policy

➤ Online safety policy

➤ Whistleblowing policy

Approved by:	L Casey/M Egelton	Date: April 2020
Last reviewed on:	1.6.2020	
Next review due by:	1.7.2020	