COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Bedstone College
(addendum to the safeguarding policy)

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Staff	All
Gov	Chair (JPSF)

Context

From 23rd 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.

This addendum of the Bedstone College Safeguarding policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

Vulnerable children

Attendance monitoring

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Reporting a concern

Safeguarding Training and induction

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

Online safety in school

Children and online safety away from school

Supporting children not in school

Supporting children in school

Peer on Peer Abuse

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Head & DSL	Wendy Martin	01547 530303	head@bedstone.org
Deputy Head (Pastoral) & DSL	John Lynch	01547 530303	deputyhead@bedstone.org
Deputy Head (Academic) & DSL	Chris Braden	01547 530303	Chris.braden@bedstone.org

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.

The Designated 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.

Bedstone College 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. The lead person for this will be Julia Richards (designated teacher for LAC).

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 Bedstone College will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Bedstone College will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend school, including remotely if needed.

Attendance monitoring

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

Teachers will monitor which children "attend" remote lessons. Tutors make contact with tutees at least weekly and typically more often.

Bedstone College and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school –Bedstone College will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Bedstone College will notify their social worker.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Bedstone College has 3 Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs).

They are listed under "Key Contacts".

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL will be available to be contacted via phone or online video.

A member of SMT will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing safeguarding records and liaising with the Head 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 Bedstone College staff have access to a trained DSL.

The Head, or designated teacher for LAC, will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

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 to one of the DSLs, which can be done remotely. In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access emails from home, they should contact one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads on the contact numbers provided in this document. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. Concerns around the Head should be directed to the Chair of Governors as outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy.

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training 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 who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL 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 (2020). One of the DSLs 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 Bedstone College, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

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, Bedstone College 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 (2020) (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 Bedstone College require the use of 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.
Bedstone College 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.
Bedstone College 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 Bedstone College 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, Bedstone College will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Online safety in schools and colleges

Bedstone College 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.

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 Safeguarding 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 in the Staff code of conduct and AUP. Bedstone College 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.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use pupils school emails to communicate with pupils and Zoom for video lessons.
- Staff should try to avoid 1-1 video lessons where possible; if unavoidable the lessons should be recorded.

Supporting children not in school

Bedstone College is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people. Tutors will maintain regular contact with their tutees (at least once a week and typically more frequently). Teaching staff will notify tutors if a student has not "engaged" with remote lessons for two successive lessons. Tutors will endeavour to contact parents or guardians in such instances. The Head will be informed.

Bedstone College 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 Bedstone College need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Supporting children in school

Bedstone College is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Bedstone College will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Head will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Bedstone College 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.

Bedstone College 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. This will be bespoke to each child.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Bedstone College recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims**.**

As per the safeguarding policy if a report of peer on peer abuse is received the principles and procedures as set out in part 5 of KCSIE will be followed.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of the young people.

Concerns and actions will be recorded and appropriate referrals made.