



Venerable Bede CE Academy - Addendum to Child Protection Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19 – April 2020

Due to the current unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 virus it is necessary that all schools are prepared and have appropriate arrangements in place in relation to the management of any safeguarding or child protection concerns both on and off site during this time. Therefore, we have produced this addendum to our existing Child Protection Policy to ensure all staff, directors and parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time.

Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies

On Site: While our school site remains open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are Richard Goodman (Designated Safeguarding Lead) and Jason Exley/Sally Holt (Deputy Safeguarding Leads). However due to these unprecedented circumstances they may not physically be on our school site every day. In this case, a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will be physically on site each day and will liaise directly with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies if any incidents of a child protection nature occur. Contact the main office on 0191 5239745 to speak to the member of the Senior Leadership Team during office hours.

Should our school site be entirely closed then we will update our website and Child Protection Policy with our arrangements.

Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children

The school's Senior Leadership Team, including the Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies, are fully aware of their vulnerable children and those they are expecting into school each day, should that child not arrive then the member of SLT on duty that day will make contact with the parent or carer immediately. Any issues that arise will be directed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputies who will liaise with social care if necessary.

The safeguarding team, including the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will continue to contact vulnerable children and their families in the following timescales for those children who are not on site:

- Children the subject of a Child Protection Plan (three times a week)
- Children who have a Child in Need Plan (twice weekly)
- Looked After Children (three times a week)
- Children where there is currently a CP/CIN assessment underway (twice weekly)
- Children with an EHCP (weekly)
- Children with an Early Help Plan (weekly)

If there are any issues raised regarding the child's care, safety or ability to be contacted then the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will follow their local safeguarding procedures and contact the Local Authority's front door services immediately (as per our Child Protection Policy).

Availability and contact arrangements for families and professionals who wish to make contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies

During these unprecedented circumstances the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be available to be contacted by children, families and other services and agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all our vulnerable children. They can be contacted via the school telephone number in the first instance and whether they are on or off site they will gain contact with any family or professional as soon as possible.

The School Reception telephone number is: 0191 5239745.

The school's office staff will then make contact with either the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputies.

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day 9am-3.30pm ONLY (including over the Easter holiday and May half-term).

Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving calls and messages outside of these times. In the event that children or families need support immediately please contact the Local Authority front door services immediately (as per the information within the Child Protection Policy) or contact the Police.

Response to safeguarding or child protection concerns

As always our school's duty of care is to keep children safe and while the arrangements of the physical care of children and physical presence of our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies may be different during this time the school's response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school's Child Protection Policy.

Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus

Safeguarding pupils and teachers online

The vast majority of children are currently being educated at home during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, so Venerable Bede CE Academy school leaders and teachers are having to adjust to remote education strategies. While this is happening, the Venerable Bede CE Academy recognises that it is important to continue to follow safeguarding procedures.

As set out in the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#) guidance, online education will follow the same principles set out in our school's staff behaviour policy (known as a code of conduct).

Keeping teachers safe when providing remote education is also essential. Remote education is a new experience for both staff and pupils, so it's important that schools understand how to approach safeguarding procedures online.

School contact with parents and carers during this time will be used to reinforce the importance of children staying safe online.

It's especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do, including:

- sites they will be asked to use
- school staff their child will interact with

Venerable Bede CE Academy emphasise the importance of a safe online environment and encourage parents and carers to set age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices and use internet filters to block malicious websites. These are usually free, but often need to be turned on.

The following resources can be used to support parents and carers to keep their children safe online:

- [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- [Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Internet matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services

Reporting concerns

This addendum outlines clear reporting routes so that children, teachers, parents and carers can raise any safeguarding concerns.

Below are some signposts to the practical support that's available for reporting harmful or upsetting content as well as bullying and online abuse.

Harmful or upsetting content

Get support by:

- reporting harmful online content to the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- getting government advice and trusted resources from [Educate Against Hate](#) on safeguarding from radicalisation, building resilience to extremism, and promoting shared values

Bullying or abuse online

You can:

- get advice on reporting online abuse from the National Crime Agency's [Child Exploitation and Online Protection command](#)
- get advice and support from [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) for children who are being bullied

Communicating with parents, carers and pupils

Although the vast majority of education is now having to take place remotely, it's important for schools, teachers and pupils to maintain professional practice as much as possible.

When communicating online with parents and pupils, Venerable Bede CE staff will:

- communicate within school hours as much as possible (or hours agreed with the school to suit the needs of staff)
- communicate through the school channels approved by the senior leadership team
- use school email accounts (not personal ones)
- use school devices over personal devices wherever possible
- advise teachers not to share personal information

Virtual lessons and live streaming

There is no expectation that teachers at the Venerable Bede CE Academy will live stream or provide pre-recorded videos of lessons. The Venerable Bede CE Academy has considered the educational approaches that best suit the needs of our pupils and staff. Work that is set for pupils will be accessed from the school's website. Communication between school and parents, carers and pupils will be through the school's ParentMail and through the school email system.

Providing pastoral care remotely

Pastoral care and support will be provided by the Safeguarding Team to our most vulnerable learners. Regular welfare phone calls will be made to the parents/carers of these children to discuss their welfare and the progress they are making in relation to the work that has been set.

As the school is still open, Office Staff are here to take phone calls from parents/carers, as well as professional agencies. All pastoral concerns will be passed on to the relevant member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Personal data and GDPR

The Venerable Bede CE Academy will continue to follow the guidance outlined in the data protection: toolkit for schools when managing personal data and will consider:

- taking care not to share contact details when emailing multiple people
- being careful when sharing usernames and other personal data for access to online resources
- providing access to school data systems safely

Originally issued 30.3.20

In light of

DFE issued interim coronavirus (covid -19): safeguarding in schools colleges and other providers late on Friday.

<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>

Updated 27.4.20 in light of

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>