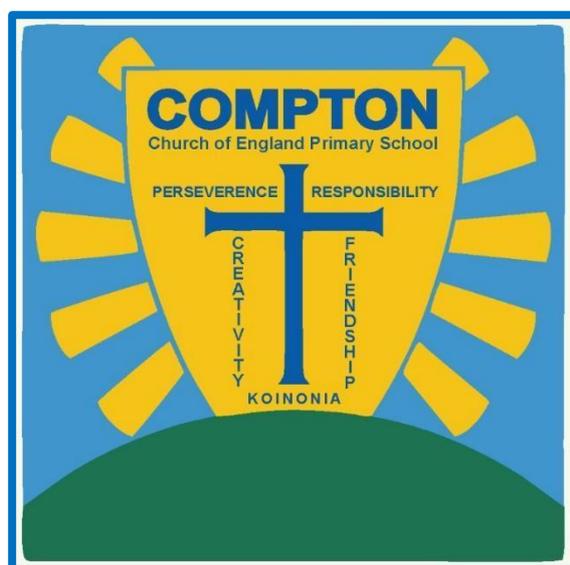


# Child protection and safeguarding: COVID-19 addendum

Compton C of E Primary School



<b>Approved by:</b>	Governing Body	<b>Date:</b> 01/05/2021
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	01/05/2021	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	01/08/2021	

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## Important contacts

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)	Giles Phillips	<a href="mailto:gphillips@compton.plymouth.sch.uk">gphillips@compton.plymouth.sch.uk</a>
Deputy DSL	Lee Woodman Mark Oakshott	<a href="mailto:lwoodman@compton.plymouth.sch.uk">lwoodman@compton.plymouth.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:moakshott@compton.plymouth.sch.uk">moakshott@compton.plymouth.sch.uk</a>
Designated member of senior leadership team if DSL (and deputy) can't be on site	Contact school office	01752 771539 ext 2
Headteacher	Mark Oakshott	As above
Local authority designated officer (LADO)	Marie Partridge	01752 306340
Chair of governors	Mr Jon Halton	<a href="mailto:jon.halton@compton.plymouth.sch.uk">jon.halton@compton.plymouth.sch.uk</a>

## 1. Scope and definitions

This addendum applies during the period of school reopening after closure due to COVID-19, and reflects updated advice from our 3 local safeguarding partners and local authority (LA) and the Government Guidance published on 28th August.

It sets out any systems that would apply to children who are not returning because they, or a family member are continuing to shield. 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.

Staff will continue to report any concerns to the safeguarding team and record those concerns on CPOMS.

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 available to deal with any safeguarding concerns that have been raised. Details of all important contacts are listed in the 'Important contacts' section at the start of this addendum.

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

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding. You can contact them via the school office (see above).

The senior leader will be responsible for liaising with the off-site DSL (or deputy) to make sure they (the senior leader) can:

- Identify the most vulnerable children in school
- Update and manage access to child protection files, where necessary
- Liaise with children's social workers where they need access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments

### 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:

- Our 3 local safeguarding partners
- 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 stated in the Government guidelines, *Guidance for full opening: schools*, published on 28th August:

In March, when the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was increasing, we made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.

Now the circumstances have changed, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical or public health advice, we will immediately offer them access to remote education. We will monitor engagement with this activity as set out in the action for all schools and local authorities section.

Where children are not able to attend school as parents and carers are following clinical or public health advice, for example, self-isolation or family isolation, the absence will not be penalised.

## **7. Concerns about a staff member**

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.

We will continue to refer adults who have harmed or pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

We will continue to refer potential cases of teacher misconduct to the Teaching Regulation Agency. We will do this using the email address [Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk) for the duration of the COVID-19 period, in line with government guidance.

## **8. Safeguarding for children not attending school**

### **8.1 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

These plans incorporate:

- How often the school will make contact

- Which staff member(s) will make contact
- How they will make contact

We have agreed these plans with children's social care where relevant, and we will keep them under review.

If we can't make contact, we will immediately contact the child's/family's social worker or take advice from Plymouth Gateway.

## **8.2 Safeguarding all children**

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

Staff 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 particular, children are likely to be spending more time online (see section 10 below).

## **9. Online safety**

### **9.1 In school**

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

### **9.2 Outside school**

Where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow our existing staff code of conduct.

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.

### **9.3 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
- 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
- Are aware that they should only use reputable online companies or tutors if they wish to supplement the remote teaching and resources our school provides
- Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online

## **10. Mental health**

Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils.

We will also signpost all pupils, parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

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.

## **11. Staff recruitment, training and induction**

### **11.1 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 Keeping Children Safe in Education.

### **11.2 Safeguarding induction and training**

We will make sure staff 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

### **11.3 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.

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

## **12. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the 3 local safeguarding partners, the LA or DfE is updated, and as a minimum 2 months by Giles Phillips - DSL. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

## **13. Links with other policies**

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Child protection policy
- Staff code of conduct
- IT acceptable use policy