

Appendix 10

Safeguarding and Child Protection @ Clyst Vale during COVID-19

This is interim safeguarding guidance; it is under review and will be updated as and when is necessary, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Full and latest details of DfE advice can be found in the link below:

[Click here for full DfE advice on safeguarding during COVID-19](#)

Please note the below is accurate as of 28th March 2020; the online DfE advice, found in the link above, is comprehensive and will continue to be updated and therefore must be the main reference point.

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

At Clyst Vale Community College we will, as far as is reasonably possible, take a whole institution approach to safeguarding ensuring that;

- with regard to safeguarding, 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

Clyst Vale Community College is not currently working as a "cluster". The principles in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), this guidance and our existing policy will therefore apply. The information below covers the situation for Clyst Vale Community College.

Designated safeguarding leads (DSLs)

- Where possible the DSL or deputy available will be available on-site. We recognise this will not always be possible, and where this is the case the DSL or deputy from the school or college will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example, when working from home
- When a trained DSL or deputy is not on-site, the member of SLT on duty will have responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.
- 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.

Workforce moving between sites

- The existing school and college workforce may move between schools and colleges on a temporary basis in response to COVID-19.
- The receiving school or college should judge, on a case-by-case basis, the level of safeguarding induction required. In most cases, the existing workforce will already have received appropriate safeguarding training and all they will require is a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.
- There is no expectation that a new DBS check should be obtained where that member of the workforce temporarily moves to another school or college to support the care of children. The onus however remains on schools and colleges to satisfy themselves that someone in their setting has had the required checks, this can be via seeking assurance from the current employer rather than requiring new checks.
- Where schools and colleges are utilising volunteers, they should continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of 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.
- DBS checks can now be completed quickly by following the usual referral processes.

Children attending other settings

It will be important for any school or college whose children are attending another setting to do whatever they reasonably can to provide the receiving institution with any relevant welfare and child protection information.

- Important information should be provided on day one, including emergency contact details, dietary requirements and medical needs to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children.
- Whilst schools and colleges must continue to have appropriate regard to data protection and GDPR they do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe.
- Any exchanges of information will ideally happen at DSL (or deputy) level, and likewise between special educational needs co-ordinators/named individuals with oversight of SEN provision for children with EHC plans. However, it is acknowledged this may not always be possible. Where this is the case senior leaders should take responsibility.
- In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school or college, or discontinues, the school or college should notify their social worker or education welfare office as applicable. (Please see Risk Assessment guidance previously shared with Devon Headteachers).
- Education settings should also follow up with **any** parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.