

Safeguarding during Covid 19 at Rutherford School

Important contacts

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)	Jean Simpson	jean.simpson@garwoodfoundation.org.uk safeguarding@garwoodfoundation.org.uk
Deputy DSL	Jo Watts	jo.watts@garwoodfoundation.org.uk safeguarding@garwoodfoundation.org.uk
Headteacher	Dr. Carole Nicholson	headofschool@garwoodfoundation.org.uk safeguarding@garwoodfoundation.org.uk
Local authority designated officer (LADO)	Steve Hall	LADO@croydon.gov.uk
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Social distancing measures introduced by the government during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic mean many organisations that work with children have had to change the way they operate on a day-to-day basis.

Agencies and organisations who can no longer work with children and families in-person may be reliant on remote or distanced contact and may be less able to recognise child protection concerns and provide appropriate support.

1. Safeguarding principles.

Although day-to-day working arrangements may be different, the key principles of the schools safeguarding and child protection policy should remain the same.

- Children's welfare should come first.
- If anyone has a concern about a child they should act immediately following our safeguarding and child protection procedures.

- A designated child protection lead should always be available to deal with concerns and there should be people who are trained to deputise in their absence.

All organisations in the UK should continue to follow existing statutory safeguarding and child protection guidance. You should also review and update your policies and procedures regularly throughout the coronavirus pandemic to reflect circumstances as they evolve.

2. The role of the designated lead and ongoing safe recruitment

The designated child protection lead and their deputy, are be named in our updated safeguarding and child protection policy. This provides up-to-date contact details and information about how they can be contacted if they are working from home.

If neither the designated safeguarding lead nor their deputy are available then a member of the senior management team should be contacted.

3. How you will continue to work with children and families.

Across the UK, the government has set out which children are classed as 'vulnerable' during the coronavirus pandemic.

However all children are now more vulnerable than before because there are fewer opportunities for the adults in their lives to spot identify and respond to child protection concerns and issues.

Consider which of the children and young people we work with who may need additional support at this time, and how we you can provide this. We should also think about any new risks that young people may be particularly exposed to as the pandemic continues.

Changes to ways of working, such as contacting families on the phone or by video calling, may bring new information to light about their home situation. Families may also experience new challenges during the pandemic, for example income loss, mental health problems, family conflict and difficulty getting food.

Make sure your staff and volunteers know what to do if they are concerned that a child, young person or their family are struggling to cope.

Multi-agency partners are available during the pandemic to ensure families have the support they need. This could include referrals to the local early help service, children's social care, community food banks, mental health support or other relevant services.

4. How to reporting concern during the coronavirus pandemic.

Child protection concerns should be reported during the coronavirus pandemic, as normal.

This includes:

- concerns about children
- concerns about adult's behaviour towards children (including that of your own staff and volunteers).

Take into account any new information from local safeguarding and child protection agencies about any changes to their procedures.

If you think a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999. If you're worried about a child but they are not in immediate danger, you should share your concerns.

- Follow your organisation's child protection procedures.
- Contact the NSPCC Helpline on **0808 800 5000** or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk. Our trained professionals will talk through your concerns with you and give you expert advice.
- Contact your local child protection services. Their contact details can be found on the website for the local authority the child lives in.
- Contact the police.

Jean Simpson Designated Safeguarding Lead

Jo Watts Deputy Safeguarding Lead

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