

Initial Policy date	4 January 2021	Next scheduled review	
Governor approved		Key person/people	DHT/HT
Model Policy		Model localised	
Pupil leadership team review		Y/N / N/A	

Temporary Policy Addendum:

COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Test Valley School

This Policy addendum is effective from 4th January 2021

Context

From 4th January 2021 Secondary age 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 and for children who are vulnerable.

Key contacts

Remain as per the School Child Protection Policy. **The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Andrew Page. Deputy DSLs include Ms Toni Wilden, Mrs Nicky Osborne, Mr Steve Langdown, Mr Jamie Whatley and Mrs S Botwright**

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child;
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan;
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order

- those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
- those living in temporary accommodation
- those who are young carers
- those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
- care leavers
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself is not a determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) 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.

Test Valley School 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 virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this is Mr Andrew Page.

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 increased 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 Test Valley School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Test Valley School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Test Valley School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

Attendance monitoring

All age pupils who are not expected to be in school during the temporary closure commencing 4 January will be recorded as 'code X'.

Children for whom on-site provision is being provided will be recorded in line with the normal school attendance requirements.

Shielding advice is currently in place and so all children still deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school.

Test Valley School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – Test Valley School will then follow up on any pupil expected to attend, who does not.

Test Valley School will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

Phone calls will be made to the parents/carers in these circumstances.

To support the above, Test Valley School will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

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

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Test Valley School school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a number of Deputy DSLs.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mr Andrew Page.

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Ms Toni Wilden, Mrs Nicky Osborne, Mr Steve Langdown, Mr Jamie Whatley and Mrs S Botwright.

At least one trained DSL (or deputy) will be available on the school site during each working day. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.

Test Valley School staff and volunteers will have access to a trained DSL (or deputy).

The DSL 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 via Safeguard, which can be done remotely. This must be logged by 4pm on the day the concern is raised. Staff must also contact a DSL directly, either by telephone or by email.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their Safeguard from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the headteacher.

If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally over the phone and followed up with an email to the headteacher to confirm the discussion.

Concerns around the headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors.

The Multi-Academy Trust will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

Safeguarding Training and induction

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL will 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 Test Valley School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will consider the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that: -

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

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, Test Valley School 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).

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding

children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that: -

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Where Test Valley School are utilising 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.

Test Valley School 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.

Test Valley School 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.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the pandemic, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school 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, Test Valley School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Volunteers

Test Valley School will use volunteers to assist in handing out and securing COVID-19 test kits to students and staff members. Other duties may be required such as building test kits, cleaning down areas and directing people.

Under no circumstances will a volunteer in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Volunteers who, on an unsupervised basis provide personal care on a one-off basis in Test Valley School, will be in regulated activity. This means that if a volunteer is administering a COVID-19 test whilst un-supervised, they will be in regulated activity and therefore require an Enhanced DBS with Barred List check.

Existing volunteers in regulated activity do not have to be re-checked if they have already had a DBS check (which includes barred list information).

Supervision must be:

- by a person who is in regulated activity.
- regular and day to day; and
- reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children.

In appointing volunteers, the school will follow safer recruitment processes.

Online safety in schools and colleges

Test Valley School 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 Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Test Valley School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Where virtual lessons take place especially where webcams are involved, staff will adhere to the following guidelines:

- Pupils will be directed to switch off their cameras.
- No 1:1 session will take place.
- 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 within the usual timetabled school-day, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms specified by the Senior Leadership Team and approved by our IT network manager to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record the time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

Supporting children not in school

Test Valley School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Test Valley School 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 Test Valley School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Teachers will monitor attendance in online lesson and will record these centrally. The DSL Team will follow up any cases of repeated or persistent absence from online lessons via email or a telephone call.

In addition, tutors will make contact with those pupils who are not in school at least once a week. This will take place via a remote meeting involving a small group of pupils. This will never be a 1-to-1 meeting.

Supporting children in school

Test Valley School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

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

Test Valley School 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.

Test Valley School 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.

In addition, Test Valley School will monitor the attendance of all pupils who are expected to be in school and will liaise with parents regarding any unexpected absences.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Test Valley School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen to and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on Safeguard and appropriate referrals made.