



**GOVERNORS
FOR SCHOOLS**

Safeguarding during Covid-19

21st May 2020



Steve Barker



Linda Waghorn

Aims of today's session:

- to clarify that governance of safeguarding continues during the current pandemic;
- to ensure an understanding of how children and young people's vulnerability may have been impacted;
- to secure governors' and trustees' confidence in holding schools to account for effective safeguarding during the coming months.

A whole new world!



Government advice/measures

 [Departments](#) [Worldwide](#) [How government works](#) [Get involved](#)
[Consultations](#) [Statistics](#) [News and communications](#)

 [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support](#)

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Guidance

Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers

Guidance for schools and colleges to keep children safe, including online, during the (COVID-19) pandemic.

Published 27 March 2020
From: [Department for Education](#)

Applies to: **England**

Related content

[Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

This guidance is applicable to 31 May 2020 and will be reviewed before 1 June 2020.



Key Government advice

- Keeping Children Safe in Education remains statutory and in force!
- *'it remains essential that as far as possible they continue to be safe places for children.'*
- Five aspects highlighted

Five aspects highlighted

- The *best interests* of children must always come first
- Safeguarding concerns should still be acted on immediately
- A DSL should be *available*
- Safer recruitment continues to apply
- Online protection for children is a priority

Schools remaining open: before 1 June

- For children with an Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- For children of key workers
- For sufficient staff to ensure the safety and well being of the children
- For ensuring learning continues

.....so safeguarding must continue

Vulnerable children?

Are expected to be in school if:

- assessed as being *in need*
- have an Education, health & care plan (EHCP)
- identified/assessed as vulnerable

How do governors know?

Poll # 1

Online Safety

In school:

- filters and monitoring systems in place
- adult supervision
- technical support during lockdown

At home:

- on-line learning platforms
- staff: pupil contact
- Support for children and parents

Mental Health Awareness

Week 18th -24th May 2020

- Missing friends and grandparents
- Living in vulnerable circumstances
- Pre-existing mental health conditions
- Anxiety about the pandemic
- Angry, fed up and isolated!
- 33% increase in calls to Childline since lockdown

Poll # 2

Questions for governors:

- Has our safeguarding policy been updated to reflect lockdown measures?
- Have we provided guidance re: online safety to staff and pupils?
- Has the school focused on vulnerable children?
- Has mental health and well-being been considered – esp. this week?

Any questions



Further information:

- Safeguarding during Coronavirus

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers

- Vulnerable Children

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people

What you need to know, when you need to know it



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