

Coronavirus / Covid-19

Emergency safeguarding procedures in the event of school/college or other educational setting closures or partial closure across Barnsley

The Barnsley Schools Alliance is concerned that in the current circumstances we do all we can collectively to protect our most vulnerable children and young people, as safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. This guidance is therefore issued to all education providers including colleges and early years settings in Barnsley to ensure that children and young people are kept as safe and well as possible during this very difficult period.

The government has updated its guidance on vulnerable children attending school. It is important that you read this updated version, which can be found here:

<https://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>

For many vulnerable children, school represents a safe haven from risk and an important structure in the overall plan to keep them as safe as we possibly can. Wherever possible we should be encouraging parents and carers of vulnerable children to send them to school unless, on the balance of assessed risk, it is demonstrably safer for them to be at home. This must be done on a case by case basis. The longer the crisis continues, the more critical we should expect it to become that more of our vulnerable children are in school.

Guidance around maintaining appropriate social distancing in schools and other settings is found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

and here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Each school or other educational setting should provide for every member of staff a list of names and contact details of the key staff who will monitor vulnerable pupils during this period. This will support all staff in sharing any information from their contact with children or families in the eventuality that more staff become ill or are unable to work as a result of self-isolation / shielding. The list should include:

- Designated teacher for 'our children' (children who are looked after)
- DSL and DDSL

- Senior Leadership Team, Headteacher and deputy as a minimum, but extended SLT may be appropriate for your school. It is recommended that the senior leadership team identify reserve staff.

These identified staff are responsible for monitoring CPOMS (or alternative system where CPOMS isn't in use) and internal arrangements to ensure timely referrals to Children's Services if required.

Please ensure that you have the appropriate contact details for children's services:

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership for advice: 01226 775859

Early Help support: earlyhelp@barnsley.gov.uk

Barnsley Schools Alliance: admin-schoolsalliance@barnsley.gov.uk

Children's Social Care front door – urgent referrals only: 01226 772423

Looked After Children - virtualschool@barnsley.gov.uk

Education Welfare Service – janeallen@barnsley.gov.uk

Education, Health & Care Plan Team – EHCTeam@barnsley.gov.uk

Special Educational Needs / Disability Information, Advice & Support Service
SENDIASS@barnsley.gov.uk or phone: 01226 787 234

Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Phone: 0800 046 8687

Objectives

- Ensure that contact is maintained by the school with all pupils via your mass communication system, e.g. parentmail at least once per week
- Ensure that you have planned for how staff will monitor communication from home to school
- Ensure that plans are in place for home learning to take place, with flexibility to support homes with/without technology/internet access
- Provide guidance for parents/carers outlining how they can support their children to continue learning whilst at home
- All vulnerable families should have additional contact and support with any concerns reported and recorded using the guidance below.
- All vulnerable children and families should be provided with a contact number / email for the school which must be monitored regularly

For vulnerable pupils not currently attending school including children supported by statutory services at CiN level or subject to a child protection plan and

- You need to identify your most vulnerable children and should use a red, amber, green rating system to assist with prioritisation. The highest priority should be given to children subject to a multi-agency child protection plan.
- Once weekly visits to the family home for the most vulnerable children with doorstep contact, with all children seen if possible, or to confirm where the young person is staying, if not at home. If home visits can't be achieved, to alert the child's social worker / family support worker as appropriate.
- Where no key worker currently exists, complete the attached proforma and return through perspective lite or via Egress to Janeallen@barnsley.gov.uk to request support from the Education Welfare Service.
- Offer of food support through school Free School Meal service for those eligible or availability of packed lunches.
- Liaising with all necessary professionals as usual
- Providing reports for or attending (inc. virtually) any planned review meetings, where possible
- Identified staff to record all interactions and any additional concerns via their usual recording mechanism, e.g. cpoms and share or escalate if necessary

Children and young people with an Education, Health & Care Plan

- Most parents and carers of pupils with SEND have chosen to keep their children at home. However, pupils with an EHCP should wherever possible be able to attend school, per the government's guidance and on the balance of risk. Any decision for the child to remain out of school should be based on appropriate risk assessment and agreed with their parents / carers.
- If they are not attending school, pupils with an EHCP must be supported to access learning materials / opportunities/ resources relevant to the child's plan.
- If you are concerned about a child with an EHCP please contact the EHC Team on the email above

School provision for other Vulnerable children (as interpreted as 'vulnerable' in your setting)

- Once weekly phone contact/doorstop contact and confirm where the child/young person is staying and report any safeguarding concerns to children's social care
- Offer of food support through the school Free School Meal arrangements
- Signpost families to the services and support available through the family services directory <https://fsd.barnsley.gov.uk/kb5/barnsley/fisd/home.page>

- Identified staff to record all interactions and any additional concerns via their usual recording mechanism, e.g. cpoms and share or escalate if necessary
- Liaison with relevant agencies at the point of need, e.g. Family Centres, Children's Social Care, SYpolice, Public Health nursing service as appropriate
- Where no key worker currently exists and concerns are raised, complete the attached proforma and return through perspective lite or via egress to janeallen@barnsley.gov.uk to request support from the Education Welfare Service.
- If you start to become worried about a child/family and feel they may need early help support, email earlyhelp@barnsley.gov.uk and request a call back from an early help professional who will be able to provide advice and guidance

School designated teacher provision for Children & Young People in the Care of Barnsley

- Welfare Call will continue to monitor attendance of children looked after
- Phone contact at least once a week.
- Offer of support as appropriate through the setting, school or college and social worker.
- Liaising with all necessary professionals as usual (e.g. Education setting, Virtual School, social worker, Personal Advisor, IRO & health professionals)
- Attending any planned review meetings (inc. virtually), unless advised otherwise
- Identified staff to record all interactions and any additional concerns via their usual recording mechanism, e.g. cpoms and share or escalate if necessary
- Each young person's TPEP kept up to date including information about changes to educational provision in light of the current situation.
- It is important to note that looked after children currently not accessing education at school may need to return to school based learning to ensure they can continue to be supported in their placement. This should form part of the risk assessment for all looked after children and school should maintain regular contact with social workers to monitor the impact of any decisions regarding school access.
- If support is required contact the Barnsley Virtual School Team via virtualschool@barnsley.gov.uk

School designated teacher provision for Children & Young People in the Care of Local Authorities other than Barnsley

- As above but schools should confirm the arrangements for monitoring attendance with the placing authority
- If support is required therefore contact the appropriate teams in the Local Authority responsible for the care of the young person. If you are experiencing

any difficulties please contact the Barnsley Virtual School via contact details above.

Free School Meal Arrangements

- Children who are eligible for free school meals should be provided for daily by arrangements through school e.g. access to school catering / issuing of packed lunches / implementing the government-led voucher scheme