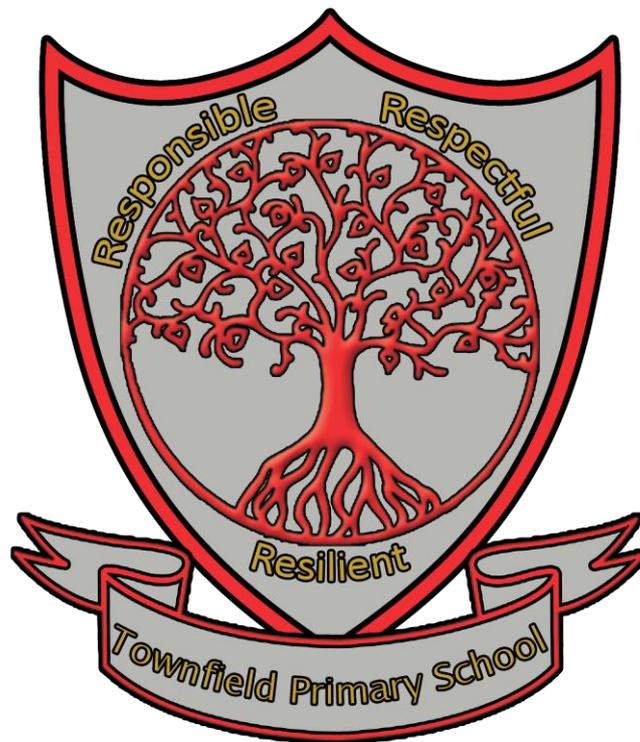


# Townfield Primary School

## Child Protection Covid-19 Arrangements



This policy was adopted by the Governing Body Spring 2021

This policy is due for review Spring 2022

## Child Protection COVID-19 Arrangements

Annex Date: **January 2021**

### Key contact details

	Name	Contact number & mobile phone	Email address
Headteacher	Moira Loftus	07790820284	headteacher@townfield.wirral.sch.uk
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Alison Durham	07590844481	durhama@townfield.wirral.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Lindsay Keenan		keenanl@townfield.wirral.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Caroline Prosser		
Link Governor for Safeguarding	Lisa Collins		CollinsL@townfield.wirral.sch.uk
DSL team/SENDco	Cath Kinnear		kinnearc@townfield.wirral.sch.uk
SLT	Michael Hughes		Hughes,@townfield.wirral.sch.uk

This annex provides guidance to all adults working within the school whether paid or voluntary or directly employed by the school or by a third party.

Keeping Children Safe in Education is statutory safeguarding guidance we will continue to have regard to as per our legislative duty. The government has provided additional guidance to support governing bodies, proprietors, senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) in order that they can continue to have appropriate regard to KCSIE and keep their children safe. The additional guidance period can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

***This annex should be read alongside Townfield Primary School's Child Protection policy, Part 1 and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020, and in conjunction with Part 1 of the School Improvement Liverpool Schools Safeguarding Handbook which is made available to all staff and volunteers.***

## 1. Context

From the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 schools were instructed to move to remote learning for all pupils other than those children of key workers and vulnerable children. Government guidance to support schools to plan and risk assess can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

Our school's risk assessment will be updated and review on an ongoing basis.

During this time, Townfield Primary School will do what it reasonably can in order to keep all of our children safe. In most cases, the majority of our children will not physically be attending the school. It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs that a child may be at risk or in need of additional support or services. Any such concerns will be dealt with in line with our main Child Protection policy and local safeguarding arrangements. Where appropriate, referrals will still be made to children's services and as required, the police, **without delay**.

All staff and volunteers should be aware of the heightened risk to all children and specifically those who are no longer attending school on a daily basis, and should ensure they are familiar with the indicators of abuse set out within the school's main Child Protection Policy, including but not limited to, the key areas of:

- Domestic abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Criminal and sexual exploitation
- Radicalisation

## 2. Provision for children of key workers and those defined by the government as vulnerable.

The school's plans and risk assessments will consider how provision is made for children of key workers and those defined by the government as vulnerable.

**The government defines vulnerable children via the link below:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

Our safeguarding team has identified any child that they consider to be vulnerable and has developed strategies to monitor their safety, wellbeing and welfare during this time should they not utilise their place in school. Vulnerable children and their families are voice of face time called each week. Schools have flexibility and are able to offer a place to those children they determine to be vulnerable, particularly those who are on the edge of receiving support or assessment from children's services, those unable to access remote learning and those at risk of experiencing mental health difficulties.

Townfield Primary School will continue to work with and support children's services and other agencies to help protect vulnerable children.

### 3. Designated Safeguarding Lead

Schools should ensure wherever possible there is always a trained DSL or deputy available on site. All safeguarding concerns should be **reported verbally and in writing without delay** to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. It is recognised however that this may not be possible and where this is the case, we will consider the following option:

- A trained DSL or deputy is available to be contacted via phone, email or video call when working from home

If it is not possible to have a trained DSL or deputy on site, Townfield Primary School will ensure that there is a senior leader who takes responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site. This senior leader can also take advice from School Improvement Liverpool's School Improvement Officers for Safeguarding:

[safeguarding@si.liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:safeguarding@si.liverpool.gov.uk)

**Phil Cooper 07921 942091\***

**Nicola Noon 07793 660567\***

**To report a CP concern if no DSL available call - Wirral IFD – 0151 606 2008**

It is essential that all staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL or deputy and are made aware of the arrangements on a daily basis regarding who that named person is and how to speak to them.

Staff should follow the procedures set out in the main Child Protection policy for contacting and reporting concerns to the DSL and/or deputy. They would contact the Lead DSLs initially, if unavailable the Deputy DSL and then any other DSL by phone and CPOMS. Michael Hughes could also be contacted about a safeguarding issue if the DSLs are not available. He can also access CP records. If all were unavailable they would contact the Integrated Front Door.

The safeguarding team will continue to engage with social workers and attend and contribute to all multi-agency meetings, as determined by the local procedures for remote meetings.

The DSL will ensure that the school is represented at all multi agency meetings in an appropriate way by identifying a secure and confidential space where virtual attendance at meetings can take place, without interruption. School will ensure there is access to appropriate technology to support this.

Safeguarding supervision for the safeguarding team will continue to take place in order to review actions and decisions made, and support emotional wellbeing. We will consider how this is managed should staff be required to work remotely, or on a rotational basis, to ensure all staff are able to participate in and have access to appropriate supervision.

### 4. Safeguarding procedures

Our school will continue to follow our child protection, managing allegations policies and staff code of conduct. The school will continue to follow normal Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures.

<b>Liverpool</b>	<a href="http://www.liverpoolscb.proceduresonline.com/">www.liverpoolscb.proceduresonline.com/</a>
<b>Halton</b>	<a href="http://www.proceduresonline.com/pancheshire/halton/index.html">www.proceduresonline.com/pancheshire/halton/index.html</a>
<b>Knowsley</b>	<a href="http://www.knowsleyscb.org.uk/professionals/multi-agency-procedures/">www.knowsleyscb.org.uk/professionals/multi-agency-procedures/</a>
<b>Sefton</b>	<a href="http://www.seftonlscb.safeguardingpolicies.org.uk/may-2017/procedures-manual/1-introductionlevel-of-need">www.seftonlscb.safeguardingpolicies.org.uk/may-2017/procedures-manual/1-introductionlevel-of-need</a>
<b>St Helens</b>	<a href="http://www.sthelensscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm">www.sthelensscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm</a>
<b>Warrington</b>	<a href="http://www.proceduresonline.com/pancheshire/warrington/index.html">www.proceduresonline.com/pancheshire/warrington/index.html</a>
<b>Wigan</b>	<a href="http://www.wigan.gov.uk/WSCB/index.aspx">www.wigan.gov.uk/WSCB/index.aspx</a>
<b>Wirral</b>	<a href="http://www.wirral safeguarding.co.uk/procedures/">www.wirral safeguarding.co.uk/procedures/</a>

For children who continue to attend the school site, staff responsible for those children will be aware of children with specific safeguarding or health needs or disabilities. Medicines should be stored and administered safely. Everyone should be clear as to the setting's child protection and fire evacuation procedures and other key safeguarding policies. Those working on the school premises should know how to contact the on-site Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputies and First Aiders. If staff are working on a rota basis, there should always be appropriately trained key personnel on site. The names of these staff should be displayed and updated as required.

Where staff in school have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in our main Child Protection policy. This includes making a report via the agreed methods (CPOMS and if this was unavailable use a yellow, child welfare concern sheet – situated in offices) Staff are reminded of the need to report any safeguarding concern immediately **both verbally and in writing, and without delay** to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. The revised statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2020) emphasises the need to report **any safeguarding concerns related to a child's mental health** to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

**Liverpool** Careline Hub 0151 233 3700  
**Halton** Social Care Contact Centre 0151 907 8305 (Out of hours 0345 050 0148)  
**Knowsley** MASH 0151 443 2600  
**Sefton** 0345 140 0845 (Out of hours 0151 934 3555)  
**St Helens** Contact Centre 01744 676 600  
**Warrington** 01925 443322 (Out of hours 01925 444400)  
**Wigan** Duty Team 01942 828300 (Emergency out of hours duty 0161 834 2436)  
**Wirral** Integrated Front Door 0151 606 2008 (Out of hours 0151 677 6557)

If any member of staff believes a child is at risk of harm then the Designated Safeguarding Lead should children's services **without delay**. If the Designated Safeguarding Lead is *unavailable* then **any** member of staff should ensure children's services are contacted without delay.

**If a child is in immediate/imminent danger then staff should ring the police.**

[Safeguarding-mate](#) can provide additional key guidance to all staff regarding key safeguarding procedures.

School will continue to obtain the voice of the child to appropriately support assessment of the child's level of need.

If school staff or governors need further safeguarding guidance or support then they should email [safeguarding@si.liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:safeguarding@si.liverpool.gov.uk) providing a mobile number for either Phil Cooper or Nicola Noon to contact them.

Concerns regarding the conduct of any adult working on site (**staff member, volunteer, supply staff, other third-party staff**) should continue to be dealt with in line with the school's managing allegations policy and local safeguarding children partnership procedures.

## 5. Attendance monitoring

All staff should remain vigilant to poor or erratic attendance being an indicator of safeguarding concerns particularly neglect or child exploitation. School Improvement Liverpool has provided additional guidance and escalation processes for monitoring the attendance of vulnerable students including when children suddenly stop attending and cannot be contacted. In these circumstances the school will act, without delay, to establish the welfare of a child. School staff may conduct a door step visit to a child's home following all social distancing guidance. This can provide opportunity to speak to a child and understand their needs and wishes whilst maintaining social distancing. Attendance issues will continue to be discussed during safeguarding supervision meetings.

Townfield Primary School will continue to monitor all vulnerable children by contacting them regularly and making home visits as required, if the family do not take up the offer of a vulnerable child place or the child stops attending. A member of the DSL will contact these families on at least a weekly basis via phone or voice call.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Townfield Primary School will work with their social worker in order to overcome any barriers and ensure the child remains safe and well. 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.

Shielding advice is currently in place, therefore all children identified as clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school.

## 6. Safer Recruitment

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. Schools should continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, set out in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020.

The government introduced temporary changes to support the ID checking during the first national lockdown:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines>

It is assumed these temporary changes may be reintroduced. In all cases all the DfE pre-employment checks set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education will need to have been completed including ensuring all original documents have been physically seen prior to the individual commencing work.

Where schools are using volunteers, they should continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education. Townfield Primary School will ensure that there are no circumstances where a volunteer who has not been checked will be left unsupervised with children or allowed to work in regulated activity. If new staff or volunteers are recruited, the usual Safer Recruitment processes will be followed, and they will also be provided with a safeguarding induction.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the pandemic, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that our school is aware, on any given day, which staff and volunteers will be in the school and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, we will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education.

## **7. Mental Health**

It is acknowledged that the current circumstances surrounding lockdown and COVID-19 are particularly stressful and may cause increased anxieties and stress for all members of our school community. When children and staff are away from their usual routine and social contact, this can become a negative and stressful experience. Townfield Primary School will ensure there is appropriate support available for the whole school community at this time. Support can include existing provision in the school, or from specialist staff or support services. Parents will also be made aware that the learning mentor can offer phone support for any children who develop mental health issues during this period. Where children of key workers and vulnerable children continue to attend the setting, appropriate support will be offered to them whilst on site.

All staff should be able to recognise behaviours in children that might suggest they are experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken following the school's child protection policy.

The school community can also be signposted to the government's advice on supporting children and young people's mental health during the COVID-19 outbreak, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing?priority-taxon=b350e61d-1db9-4cc2-bb44-fab02882ac25>

Staff should also be aware of the mental health of their pupils and parents when setting expectations regarding pupil's work when they are at home.

## **8. Online safety**

School staff should continue to refer to the guidance for online safety in the main child protection policy.

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.

Where the site remains open for key worker and vulnerable children, Townfield Primary School will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children when they are online on the school's IT systems or recommended resources. Measures will be put in place to ensure safe IT arrangements and Townfield Primary School will consider what the contingency arrangements are if the named IT staff become unavailable.

To support schools in delivering online remote learning, the DfE have produced safeguarding guidance for remote education, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The [UK Council for Internet Safety provides information to help governing boards and proprietors assure themselves](#) that any new arrangements continue to effectively safeguard children online.

The [UK Safer Internet Centre's professional online safety helpline](#) also provides support for the children's workforce with any online safety issues they face

In the consideration of online safety the DfE have revised Annex C of Keeping Children safe in Education which now provides guidance in respect of education at home: where children are being asked to learn online at home the department has provided advice to support schools and colleges do so safely: ['Safeguarding in schools colleges and other providers'](#) and ['Safeguarding and remote education'](#)

The school will also take account of the following guidance:

Gov.uk

[Teaching Online Safety in Schools](#)

[Advice for teachers and leaders on remote education during Covid-19](#)

[Get help with technology for remote education during coronavirus](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

LGfL

<https://coronavirus.lgfl.net/safeguarding>

SWGfL

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/safe-remote-learning/>

[SWGfL – Safeguarding and privacy online](#)

[SWGfL guidance for schools re-opening](#)

UK Safer Internet Centre

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/working-remotely-advice-professionals-parents-posh-rhc>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/safe-remote-learning-hub>

NSPCC

[NSPCC- Netware guidance around Zoom and other Apps](#)

[NSPCC: Online safety during the coronavirus](#)

[NSPCC: Undertaking remote teaching safely](#)

Where children are not physically attending school, Townfield Primary School will consider the safety of our children when they are asked to work online. The starting point for online teaching remains the same as the principles set out in our school's staff code of conduct. This policy includes acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships and communication including the use of social media. This policy applies equally to any existing or new online and distance learning arrangements which have been introduced. The principles set out in the [guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings published by the Safer Recruitment Consortium](#) alongside with the [COVID addendum](#) to this guidance should be adhered to by all staff.

Any online learning tools or systems recommended for use by Townfield Primary School, are be in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Townfield Primary School uses age-appropriate and secure online learning platforms. We have ensured all children are assigned individual login details on these online learning platforms in order to stay safe online. Staff have configured privacy settings so children's posts undergo a teacher approval process and these posts are unavailable to the public.

The school website and social media page will promote online safety by drawing parent's and carer's attention to the school's online safety policy and the pupil code of conduct – we will require parents to read and discuss its implications with their children. Townfield Primary School will offer specific online safety guidance, highlighting the dangers children may face online.

We will sign-post age appropriate practical support, as well as reporting routes to allow children to raise concern whilst online at home: e.g. Childline, UK Safer Internet Centre or CEOP. These links will be presented on the school website and social networks in order to inform parents and carers sufficiently.

Our school will also be in contact with parents and carers during this time. Communication with parents will reinforce the importance of children being safe online. Families will be made aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and who their child is going to be interacting with online, including members of staff from our school.

Townfield Primary School acknowledges that some parents and carers may choose to supplement the school's online offer with support from online companies and in some cases, individual tutors. We will raise awareness with parents the importance of only accessing online support from a reputable organisation or individual who can provide evidence that they are a safe organisation and can be trusted to have access to children. We will signpost parents to support such as [Internet matters](#), [London Grid for Learning](#), [Net-aware](#), [Parent info](#), [Thinkuknow](#) and the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#).

## 9. Operation Encompass

If a child, subject to an Operation Encompass notification, is not attending our school and is being cared for at home, we will risk assess the situation taking into consideration the history of the child and family. This information will be used in order to determine our response to each individual case. In all situations we would always aim to speak to the child.

If school receive a notification relating to a child who does not attend our setting, we will notify Merseyside Police via [safeguarding.referrals@merseyside.police.uk](mailto:safeguarding.referrals@merseyside.police.uk).

Families at risk of Domestic Abuse can be signposted to the following resources:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help>

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/covid-19-resource-hub/>

<http://thehideout.org.uk/>

<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

<https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Safety%20planning%20guide,%20victims%20and%20survivors,%20COVID-19.pdf>

## 10. Peer on peer abuse

Townfield Primary School recognises that during the Covid 19 period and given the potential for further school closures or partial closures a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where we receive a report of peer on peer abuse, we will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within our main Child Protection policy. We will listen 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 will be recorded using the agreed methods and appropriate referrals made.

Our school will refer to the guidance detailed below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people>

## **11. Monitoring**

Townfield Primary School will develop arrangements to ensure all staff and volunteers are aware and have understood any additional safeguarding guidance set out in this addendum. This appendix and the school's safeguarding arrangements will be kept under ongoing review.

<b>Policy/Plan administration</b>	
<b>Version number</b>	1
<b>Details of any amendment(s)</b>	New policy
<b>Date of issue</b>	Spring 2021
<b>Electronic copies of this plan are available from</b>	The school website
<b>Hard copies of this plan are available from</b>	The school office
<b>Date of next review</b>	Spring 2022
<b>Person responsible for review</b>	AHT / HT