



**COVID-19 Churnet View Middle School  
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy  
Update (To be read in conjunction with  
Churnet View Middle School's main policy)**

**Updated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020, in line with DfE Covid-19  
safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers  
guidance.**

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

**School Name: Churnet View Middle School**

**Policy Owner: L Fernyhough**

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Date shared with staff: 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020**

The addendum of the Churnet View Middle School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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## **1. Context**

From 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 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 – who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children – children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot safely be cared for at home.

## 2. Key Contacts

Role	Name	Contact Number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Louise Fernyhough	01538 384939	<a href="mailto:LFernyhough@tltt.org.uk">LFernyhough@tltt.org.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Steve Fryer	01538 384939	<a href="mailto:SFryer@tltt.org.uk">SFryer@tltt.org.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Rowena Jukes	01538 384939	<a href="mailto:RJukes@tltt.org.uk">RJukes@tltt.org.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Alison Keily	01538 384939	<a href="mailto:AKEily@tltt.org.uk">AKEily@tltt.org.uk</a>
Headteacher	Steve Fryer	01538 384939	<a href="mailto:SFryer@tltt.org.uk">SFryer@tltt.org.uk</a>
Safeguarding Governor	Jane Dambach	01538 384939	<a href="mailto:JDambach@tltt.org.uk">JDambach@tltt.org.uk</a>
Chair of Governors	John Fisher	01538 370930	<a href="mailto:JFisher@tltt.org.uk">JFisher@tltt.org.uk</a>
Leek SSU Team Manager	Kezia Mifflin	01538 483129	<a href="mailto:kezia.mifflin@staffordshire.gov.uk">kezia.mifflin@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>
Visyon – Tier 2	Nikki Stroud		<a href="mailto:nikki.stroud@visyon.org.uk">nikki.stroud@visyon.org.uk</a>
Visyon – Tier 2	Louise Marsh		<a href="mailto:louise.marsh@visyon.org.uk">louise.marsh@visyon.org.uk</a>
Visyon Counselling	Joanne Parkes		<a href="mailto:joanne.parkes@visyon.org.uk">joanne.parkes@visyon.org.uk</a>
Staffordshire Front Door	First Response	0800 1313126	

## 3. Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

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

Churnet View Middle 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 for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children. The lead person for this will be: Louise Fernyhough

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 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 Churnet View Middle School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID-19, the social worker or Churnet View Middle School will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Churnet View Middle School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

#### **4. Attendance monitoring**

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up non-attendance.

Churnet View Middle School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – Churnet View Middle School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Churnet View Middle School will also follow up with any parent/carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

### **How will this look at Churnet View Middle School?**

To support the above, Churnet View Middle School will, when communicating with parents/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, Churnet View Middle School will notify their social worker.

## **5. Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Churnet View Middle School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead and 3 Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is: Louise Fernyhough

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Steve Fryer

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Rowena Jukes

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Alison Keily

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Leads will be available to be contacted via the telephone or online video link during the course of the school day. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will continue to be available via the telephone or video link during holidays periods too.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, the most senior member of staff will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school.

It is important that all Churnet View Middle School staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). Staff have been made aware of who to contact with safeguarding concerns and how to contact them.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

## **6. Reporting a concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school safeguarding flowchart, this includes making a report via My Concern, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their My Concern account from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher. 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 school, they should report this to the Headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors:  
John Fisher

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

## **7. Safeguarding Training and induction**

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL should 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 Churnet View Middle 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 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

For movement within the Trust, schools should seek assurance from the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) HR Manager that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training.

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.

## **8. 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, Churnet View Middle 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 (2019) (KCSIE).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

Where Churnet View Middle 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.

Churnet View Middle 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.

Churnet View Middle 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.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing

[Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk)

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, 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, Churnet View Middle School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

## **9. Online safety in school**

Churnet View Middle School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where pupils are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

## **10.Children and online safety away from school**

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.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the code of conduct.

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

Staff must only use platforms provided by Churnet View Middle School to communicate with pupils.

## **11.Supporting children not in school**

Churnet View Middle School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of the plan must be recorded on My Concern. My Concern should be updated following each communication with the child and parent.

The communication plans can include; remote/email contact and phone contact. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Churnet View Middle School's DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan. This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate. Churnet View Middle School will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Churnet View Middle School recognises that Churnet View Middle School is a protective factor for children and young people, and that the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. All Churnet View Middle School staff are aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Churnet View Middle School will ensure that where they care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, they ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

## **12.Supporting children in Churnet View Middle School**

Churnet View Middle School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils. Our pupils will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.



Our Governors and Head Teacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Churnet View Middle 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. They 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.

Where Churnet View Middle School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as the Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – they will discuss them immediately with the Chair of Governors

### **13. Peer on Peer Abuse**

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

Where Churnet View Middle 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 the Churnet View Middle School Child Protection Policy. Our Academies will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions will be recorded appropriate referrals made.

### **14. Useful Contact Numbers**

- **FIRST RESPONSE PHONE NUMBER :- 08001313126**
- **DUTY LADO :- Contact First Response, 0800 1313126**
- **NSPCC :- 0808 800 5000**
- [virtual.school@staffordhsire.gov.uk](mailto:virtual.school@staffordhsire.gov.uk)
- **New Era Victim Support: - 08 08 16 89 111**