



Mill Rythe
JUNIOR SCHOOL

**COVID-19 National Lockdown
Arrangements for
Safeguarding and
Child Protection at
Mill Rythe Junior School
Spring 2021**

1. Context

From 5th January 2021, parents were asked to keep their children at home wherever this was possible. 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 classified as critical critical workers and cannot be safely cared for at home whilst their parents are working.

This addendum of the Mill Rythe Junior School Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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Key contacts – to be contacted in the order listed below

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher	David Bessant		d.bessant@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and Assistant Headteacher	Becky Vousden		r.vousden@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk
Deputy DSLs	Sue Ginn Sarah Hodgson Erica Wintle		s.ginn@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk s.hodgson@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk e.wintle@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Lisa Charlton		l.charlton@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk
School Improvement Manager	Caroline Wilkins		Caroline.Wilkins@hants.gov.uk
LADO	Barbara Piddington Mark Blackwell		Barbara.piddington@hants.gov.uk Mark.blackwell@hants.gov.uk
Early Help Hub	Andy Kennedy		Andy.kennedy@hants.gov.uk

Vulnerable children

The DfE have classified vulnerable children and young people as being 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 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

Mill Rythe Junior School will continue to work with and support children's services 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.

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 Mill Rythe Junior School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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

Mill Rythe Junior School will encourage our vulnerable children to attend school. Where this does not happen, children will be provided with remote learning via google classrooms and both the children and parents/carers home learning via the school website. They will be contacted weekly by a DSL and class teacher with any concerns being raised with the child's social worker.

Attendance monitoring

Mill Rythe Junior School will complete the DfE daily attendance return for both children and staff.

The School has agreed with parents and carers who will be attending school each day. If these children are not in school, this will be followed up with parents and carers in the normal way with the exception of home visits. If we are unable to contact parents and carers we will notify the police and the practicalities of a home visit will be considered.

Where a vulnerable child is not in school due to absence or parental/carer choice the child's social worker will be notified by a DSL.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mill Rythe Junior School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and five Deputy DSLs.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: David Bessant (Headteacher)

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Becky Vousden (Deputy Headteacher), Erica Wintle (Deputy headteacher), Sue Ginn (Home school link worker), Sarah Hodgson (Thrive leader) and Amy Ayling (SENCo).

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case, a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone, for example when working from home. Staff will be notified in advance if a DSL is not in school.

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 updating and managing access to the child protection online management system, CPOMS, and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in order to carry out statutory assessments at the school.

The DSL team 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 Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via CPOMS, which can be done remotely. The normal use of the paper system for sharing concerns has been stopped at this time. When a report is issued via CPOMS by a member of staff working from home, a phone call to the DSL or deputy DSLs should also be made. In school, staff will notify a DSL or deputy DSL of any safeguarding incidents recorded on CPOMS.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home, they should call the DSL and then email the DSL a report that will be added to CPOMS for them. This will ensure that the concern is received and actioned accordingly.

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 via a phone call and followed up with an email to the headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors, Lisa Charlton.

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training can continue to be accessed remotely during the pandemic.

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 Mill Rythe Junior School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction as part of their wider induction to Mill Rythe Junior School.

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*

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's safeguarding and 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 not suitable to work with children are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Mill Rythe Junior 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).

Mill Rythe Junior 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.

Mill Rythe Junior School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 143 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

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, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Mill Rythe Junior School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 164 to 171 in KCSIE 2020.

Online safety in schools and colleges

Mill Rythe Junior 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.

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 Mill Rythe Junior School Code of Conduct. Where live sessions are used, teachers, parents and children will be expected to follow the expectations set out in the document: Live sessions – expectations for staff, children, parents and carers. These that have been shared with all parties.

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

Supporting children not in school

Mill Rythe Junior School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all 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 this plan are recorded in the Covid-19 folder held by David and Becky and all contact is recorded on CPOMS.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Mill Rythe Junior School and its 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.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and within its newsletter.

Mill Rythe Junior 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 Mill Rythe Junior School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Trick box strategies are being taught to children both in school and at home throughout the lockdown. Children who would normally be supported with thrive sessions in school are receiving a thrive call each week and their families are receiving a thrive newsletter that contains activities linked to the children's plans that families can choose to complete at home. In addition to this, one breathing exercise is shared fortnightly with all families via the school newsletter. All children who are learning remotely receive a weekly call from their class teacher. In addition to this, a number of children and families receive additional phone calls from members of the DSL team on a twice weekly or daily basis.

Mill Rythe Junior 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. This will be bespoke to each child and any concerns will be recorded on CPOMS.

Supporting children in school

Mill Rythe Junior School:

- is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils.
- will keep the school risk assessment under review and communicate this with all staff.
- 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.
- will adhere to the guidance contained within 'Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools January 2021'.
- 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. This will be bespoke to each child and any concerns will be recorded on CPOMS.