



COVID-19 arrangements for safeguarding and child protection at Summer Fields (v.15)

Including all of the Pre-Prep Department and Early Years Foundation Stage

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Updated 9 November 2020

This policy was originally dated 20 April 2020 and is in line with the DFE guidance of 27 March 2020: <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>

It will be reviewed on as circumstances evolve or further guidance is issued by the Department for Education (DfE). It is made available on the school website and to all staff.

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1. Context

From 20 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.

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

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to COVID-19 is fundamentally different from normal. While Summer Fields runs as an online school, there will be no pupils on site, in a physical school setting – although this document sets out guidance procedures to be put in place if children of key workers, or vulnerable children, were to attend.

Summer Fields currently runs remotely with pupils accessing learning opportunities online. Summer Fields's operations as a boarding school are currently interrupted and all pupils are at home or self-isolating elsewhere. Staff remain in their school-provided accommodation, or elsewhere for good reason, from where they are delivering online teaching. As usual, all staff and volunteers attending on site from outside the school will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of safeguarding risks and know how to act if they have concerns.

Update

From September 2020 a full reopening will start – see Section 12. Much of this document still relates to remote learning, which remains in place for some boys and therefore it has continued relevance. Much also still relates to a lockdown situation which remains a distinct possibility, including the sending home of 'bubbles'.

Staff are reminded of the three points made in the start of term safeguarding inset:

1. Children may have picked up mental health issues during lockdown. Many will hardly have been out of the house. Some very much on their own without contact or interaction with other children.
2. Parents may have had greater opportunity to be abusive during lockdown. The DSL has been involved in 4 incidents over the last five months. 3 of them caused by poor parenting and neglect. So please be prepared for disclosures.
3. Finally we are warned to be vigilant to the potential for bullying of social and ethnic groups due to COVID. It would be easy to single out an ethnicity and blame them for the spread of the virus.

This document should be read in conjunction with the reopening risk assessment and the FAQs.

Update

From 5 November England has gone into Lockdown 2.

1. All Year 7 and 8 pupils and all staff will wear face coverings around school and in areas where social distancing is not possible (but not in classrooms).
2. All normal co-curricular activities will continue. They have been Risk Assessed
3. Any children who have to stay at home because they are clinically extremely vulnerable will have appropriate arrangements put in place to enable them to continue their education.

2. Key contacts

If you are worried that a child is being abused, neglected, or is in need of further support:

1. Speak to Chris Sparrow (07872 031567) who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) cs@summerfields.com
2. Speak to one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:
 - James Aldred, Deputy Head, Pastoral (07985 967284) jera@summerfields.com
 - David Faber, Headmaster (01865 459209) headmaster@summerfields.com
 - Joanna Chapman, Head of Pre-Prep (01865 951252) jgc@summerfields.com
3. Safeguarding@summerfields.com will send an email to all the above members of the safeguarding team
4. Speak to the Oxfordshire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Alison Beasley (01865 815956) Alison.Beasley@oxfordshire.gov.uk
5. Speak to Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (01865 815843) oscb@oxfordshire.gov.uk
6. Speak to the Oxfordshire Locality and Community Support Services (LCSS) on 0345 241 2608 or the Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 050 7666

If you are concerned that a member of staff or volunteer may be abusing a child you must straight away:

1. Speak to the Headmaster, David Faber (01865 459209) headmaster@summerfields.com
2. Speak to the DSL, Chris Sparrow (07872 031567) cs@summerfields.com
3. Or speak to the Chairman of Governors, Andrew Reekes (01789 490272) aer@radley.org.uk

If you are concerned about extremism or radicalisation:

1. Call 0345 050 7666 – Oxfordshire MASH team will direct as appropriate
2. Or phone the police on 101 (non-emergency), or 999
3. Or go to counter-extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk or phone 020 7340 7264

3. Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children 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 the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school 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 with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

The Headmaster and Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) 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.

Summer Fields 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 (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be the DSL Chris Sparrow.

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 their child to attend school, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Summer Fields will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. We as a school will ensure that all professionals involved with these vulnerable children, (e.g. social workers, SEND case workers, LCSS, Early Help worker etc) are fully informed around the current attendance of the child (attending school or not) and if not attending school the arrangements that we have put in place around safeguarding this child.

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

Summer Fields will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend school, including remotely if needed.

4. Attendance monitoring

Summer Fields will complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes as outlined in the Remote Learning Policy; staff will monitor the engagement of pupils and follow up on those who fail to attend as expected. This will take account of those boys who are in different time zones. This will be done initially by the School Office or the Pre-prep Office, via a telephone conversation. If necessary, the procedures outlined in the school's Missing Child Policy will be followed.

To support the above, when communicating with parents/carers, we will confirm that all emergency contact numbers are correct and will ask for any additional emergency numbers that may be appropriate at this time.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not attend consistently, we will notify their local Children's Services or social worker.

5. Designated Safeguarding Lead

A member of the DSL team will be available at all times and will be contactable in person in school, via email, phone, or online video if necessary – on the numbers above. Specific cover is in place for all key positions within the safeguarding team and it is considered that enough staff are trained to the higher level to be able to cope with any disruption.

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

6. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the Summer Fields Safeguarding Policy; this includes making a report to the Safeguarding Team, which can be done remotely at safeguarding@summerfields.com or by telephoning the DSL or one of the deputies.

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 continue to follow our normal procedures and alert the Headmaster immediately. He will follow normal allegation management procedures as detailed in Keeping Children Safe in Education and liaise with Oxfordshire's Local Authority Designated Officer, Alison Beasley. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headmaster while away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Headmaster.

Concerns around the Headmaster should be directed to the Chairman of Governors, Andrew Reekes.

7. Safeguarding Training and induction

During the period Covid-19 measures are in place, the DSL and Deputy DSLs are unlikely to receive their refresher training. The DSL and Deputy DSLs who have been trained will continue to be classed as trained, even if they miss their refresher training. Any other training will continue in line with the OSCB advice on training during the COVI-19 period.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read Part 1 and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL will communicate with staff about any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child. If new staff are recruited, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff from another educational setting attend the site, checks will be carried out in line with the DfE's current supplementary guidance on safeguarding and the school's own policies.

8. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Summer Fields will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (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 Summer Fields 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.

Summer Fields 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, in line with advice from the LADO where appropriate.

Summer Fields 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.

It is essential from a safeguarding perspective that we are aware, on any given day, which staff or volunteers will be active in delivering lessons and activities, either on the school site or remotely, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. Summer Fields will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 of KCSIE. It is noted that a new DBS is not required for any staff who have been away from school for 3 months due to the pandemic.

9. Online safety

Summer Fields will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of online filtering and reporting systems.

Where students 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 Safeguarding Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and, as required, the police.

Summer Fields will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Summer Fields' rules for remote learning:

1. Provide remote-learning resources, tasks and assignments via FireFly, where it is secure and viewable only to registered Summer Fields users. Tasks and work should not be emailed to boys or parents.
2. Use school email accounts when email contact is required. Email contact to set up live video conferencing must be copied to parents (except for whole form lessons).
3. Never give out or use any private systems of remote contact (e.g. mobile phone numbers or alternative private email addresses) to parents or pupils. Teacher contact with parents and/or pupils via any form of social media (e.g. Skype, FaceTime, WhatsApp, SMS text message, Facebook, etc.) other than Zoom is strictly prohibited.
4. Arrange live video conferencing when required with boys (copying in parents for any 1-to-1 lessons), in advance, by email. Live video conferencing will only take place using Zoom.
5. Record all live video conference calls conducted on Zoom. These videos will be stored in a central location and regularly audited as part of our safeguarding procedures.

6. Never enable the permission on Zoom which would give the technical ability to boys to record the call on their account.
7. Ideally, ensure at the start of any live video conference on Zoom that an adult, preferably a parent, is also at the pupil's geographical location. If this is not possible consider carefully if the meeting is appropriate.
8. Ideally ensure at the start of any live video conference on Zoom that the pupil's computer is in a shared space at their geographical location; it should not take place in a private space, such as a bedroom, unless other safeguards are in place (such as seeing the parent and having the door open). Where possible, the interaction should take place with a neutral background; staff and pupils must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household; staff should not comment on the background to the call or the surroundings of the child.
9. Log any one-to-one session (tutorial or additional lesson) which has taken place on the available form. This log will be compared with the Zoom activity register viewable to the system administrator for discrepancies as part of our safeguarding procedures.
10. If pupils or parents need to telephone the school, they should call the School Office on 01865 454433 or the Pre-prep on 01865 951253 and messages will be passed to individual teachers as appropriate.

All staff at Summer Fields will be reminded of the following policies:

- Staff Behaviour Policy which includes rules on the use of social media
- Technology Acceptable Use Policy
- Annex C of KCSIE 2020 which outlines useful contacts for online safety both at school and home

11. Supporting children not in school

Summer Fields is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils.

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.

A communication plan can include: remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded. Summer Fields 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.

Summer Fields will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages. The 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.

12. Supporting children in school

Summer Fields is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

The school will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headmaster will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff-to-pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Summer Fields will refer to all government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and will continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19.

The 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.

Phased and full reopening

From 1 June 2020 Summer Fields started a phased reopening in line with Government directives with children returning to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. From 22 June all Year Groups are permitted to return (space and safety permitting). Risk Assessments have been carried out in relation to this and focus on the best interests of the children. These RAs create the link between the Health and Safety Policies and the Safeguarding Policy.

Staff will be briefed in advance of this expanded opening with an emphasis on Safeguarding to include the following points:

- Staff should be aware that new safeguarding issues may have arisen during lockdown and should be alert to potential disclosures.
- Staff should report any concerns immediately to the DSL or a deputy, or to the Headmaster if the concern is about a member of staff.
- Staff should have read the Risk Assessments and know how to instruct the boys to follow the social distancing and hygiene routines.

13. Mental Health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Teachers should be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Mental health issues can bring about changes in a young person's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, and that may be an indication of an underlying problem. Support for pupils in the current circumstances includes existing provision in the school such as: the tutor network, the Pastoral Support Team, Hobson's, (although this may be delivered in different ways, for example, over the telephone), or from specialist staff or support services.

Each tutor will continue to speak directly to their tutees via Zoom.

14. Peer on Peer Abuse

Summer Fields recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where the 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 Summer Fields Safeguarding Policy.

Summer Fields will listen and work with the child, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that pupil.

Concerns and actions must be recorded, and appropriate referrals made.

All staff will be sent this additional policy to read and will be asked to confirm, via email, that they have read and understood the content.

Date	Person Conducting the Review	Changes Made to COVID Annex
20/04/2020	CS	Policy created
27/04/2020	CS	Changes to points 10.2, 10.4, 10.7 & 10.8
04/05/2020	CS	Changes to points 10.2 & 10.4
11/05/2020	CS	No changes
18/05/2020	CS	No changes
28/05/2020	CS	Changes due to phased reopening: 1, 8, 12, 13
08/06/2020	CS	No changes
15/06/2020	CS	No changes
22/06/2020	CS	Changes to 12 due to expanded opening
21/09/2020	CS	Updated Context. Changes to references to KCSIE 2020. Changes to 12 for full opening.
05/10/2020	CS	No changes
19/10/2020	CS	Clarification of cover within the safeguarding team in 5
09/11/2020	CS	Update due to lockdown 2. Face coverings, co-curricular activities, CEV children (p.3)