

Covid 19 safeguarding/child protection policy annex: to be read in conjunction with the school's safeguarding/child protection policy.

This document should be regularly updated in response to any changes to local and national guidance.

Duty to Report Safeguarding Issues: Information for staff and volunteers during COVID 19 (school closure/partial closure)

Whether learners are at home or in the classroom, safeguarding and the welfare of learners is paramount and takes precedence over all other considerations. At all times practitioners should continue to follow the school or setting's safeguarding policies. All issues relating to online safeguarding should be dealt with in the same way as face-to-face teaching or interactions.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 specifies the **duty** placed on practitioners and partners (under s.162 of the Act) to report both adults and children where they have reasonable cause to suspect the criteria regarding risk of harm is met.

A referral **must** be made whenever a professional has concerns about a child under the age of 18 years.

Remote learning and safeguarding

Schools should include their guidance for practitioners on remote learning and information for learners/parents and carers.

The school/setting's policies for online safety; staff and learner well-being and safeguarding and distance learning should reflect how video-conferencing and live-streaming will be carried out and monitored.

Refer to: <https://hwb.gov.wales/zones/keeping-safe-online/live-streaming-and-video-conferencing-safeguarding-principles-and-practice/>

Further guidance can be found on the [Online safety zone on Hwb](#).

Working with other agencies/information sharing

As part of the Council's response to COVID 19 we will work with Children's Services and other partners to support vulnerable learners. If schools have to return to a situation of remote learning, then children identified on the school's 'vulnerable learner list' will be contacted regularly by the school. Other relevant agencies involved will be notified where contact cannot be made or if concerns arise. The school will continue to participate in all relevant multi-agency meetings in order to safeguard children and young people.

Vulnerable Learners list/Contact Records (during periods of school closures)

The list of vulnerable learners may change regularly; for example, in response to an Encompass alert received by the school. As a school we will:

- a) Review the list on a regular basis
- b) Keep in regular contact with all vulnerable learners
- c) Liaise with the school's EWO and other relevant practitioners where we are unable to make contact with vulnerable learners/families
- d) Keep a record of all communication with learners and families

Local procedures during this time

Newport's Safeguarding Hub will continue to respond to referrals that indicate that a child/young person is **at risk of harm**. This is defined as:

- A child/young person who has disclosed that they have been physically harmed resulting in an injury or bruising
- A child/young person who does not have the ability to communicate presenting with an injury or bruising that is unexplained.
- An allegation of sexual abuse
- The likelihood that abuse will take place immediately if the matter is not investigated under child protection procedures.

Referrals will continue to be made to Newport Children's Services using a multi-agency referral form (MARF). This form can be found on the Gwent Safeguarding website: <https://www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk/en/Children/Report/Report-a-child-at-risk.aspx>

The MARF should be sent to: **Children.duty@newport.gov.uk**

After 5pm, on weekends and bank holidays, contact the South East Wales Emergency Duty Team (EDT) to report any safeguarding concerns: **0800 328 4432**

If you think a child or young person is in immediate danger, contact the Police on 999

Concerns about a practitioner who may pose a safeguarding risk to children: the usual procedures will be followed (see policy) and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)/

Education Safeguarding Officer (ESO) will be contacted for advice. If not available, the Safeguarding Hub will be contacted for advice. Further information can be accessed via the [Wales safeguarding procedures website](#)

Other relevant guidance

<https://gov.wales/guidance-supporting-vulnerable-and-disadvantaged-learners>

<https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-autumn-term-covid-19>

<https://gov.wales/keeping-children-and-young-people-safe-non-statutory-guide-practitioners>