



COVID 19

Safeguarding Annex

Bedford Nursery Schools Federation understands its responsibilities for Safeguarding continue throughout the current global pandemic COVID 19 and keeps regards to Keeping Children Safe in Education

The school refers to the [non-statutory interim guidance](#) on safeguarding in schools

This document highlights things that staff should be more aware of when schools reopen to more children during the current pandemic.

Bedford Nursery Schools Federation was closed to the majority of pupils from March 2020 when a national lock down was called. We continued to open to essential worker and vulnerable families and in June 2020 began a process of wider opening and welcomed back more children and families to the school in line with our action plan and risk assessment.

From September 2020 we will re-open to increased numbers of children including new families and children.

We will remain vigilant to signs of change in children returning to school after a prolonged period of absence and will observe and listen carefully to what children and adults are saying to us to watch for signs trauma or effects from COVID 19.

It is likely that staff will be working with children that they have not been with before or that are less familiar to them. Staff should ensure that they are aware of any previous concerns that may have been raised around the families that they are working with. The lead in each school should ensure that all staff are made aware of any ongoing (live) safeguarding cases and staff need to be particularly vigilant in these cases.

The nominated DSL's are Julie Smith, Lesley Boyle, Suzie Hoefkens, Victoria Rempel and Clare Oliver and at least one will be available at all times. Office Manager Sandra Munday has also received full training. There will be a Safeguarding Officer available on each site at all times.

It is the responsibility of each DSL to ensure that they are up to date with all current guidance around safeguarding issued by LSCB, Bedford Borough or DfE.

Safer Recruitment

The school will adhere to the safer recruitment policies and procedures, The advice is that we do not need to obtain another DBS clearance for any staff that may not have been in school for 3 months due to the pandemic but who have been 'continually employed'.

Attendance

We will resume recording attendance in the normal manner from September, but be mindful that the effects of the COVID pandemic can be long lasting and may affect both parents and children which may affect their attendance. Support will be offered where appropriate to enable children to attend school regularly to support their mental health, educational progress and well being.

Mental health

Where the parent(s) of a vulnerable child, children with an EHCP or a Social Worker choose not to send them back to school initially, we will remain in telephone contact regularly and work with them to encourage the safe return of the child to school where we can. At no point will any parent be pressurised into returning their child to school which may affect their own mental health and safety and well being.

The school understands how the coronavirus pandemic can cause pupils and staff to feel anxious and concerned and will offer any essential support required to those in need.

The head teacher will encourage line managers to hold one-to-one meetings with their staff over the phone or via a video call to ensure they feel supported during this stressful time.

Families will be provided with different resources they can access to help them cope with their mental health.

Face-to-face support will only be provided where necessary or unavoidable.

Home Learning

We will support all children and families to access as much learning at home as possible. This may be through online learning or by learning packs provided by the nursery containing age appropriate resources following the curriculum in school.

We will also make welfare calls and do zoom meetings with parents whose children are not attending school.

We will also do a series of story and activity sessions via zoom.