

Safeguarding during Covid-19

21st May 2020





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Aims of today's session:

- to clarify that governance of safeguarding continues during the current pandemic;
- to ensure an understanding of how children and young people's vulnerability may have been impacted;
- to secure governors' and trustees' confidence in holding schools to account for effective safeguarding during the coming months.



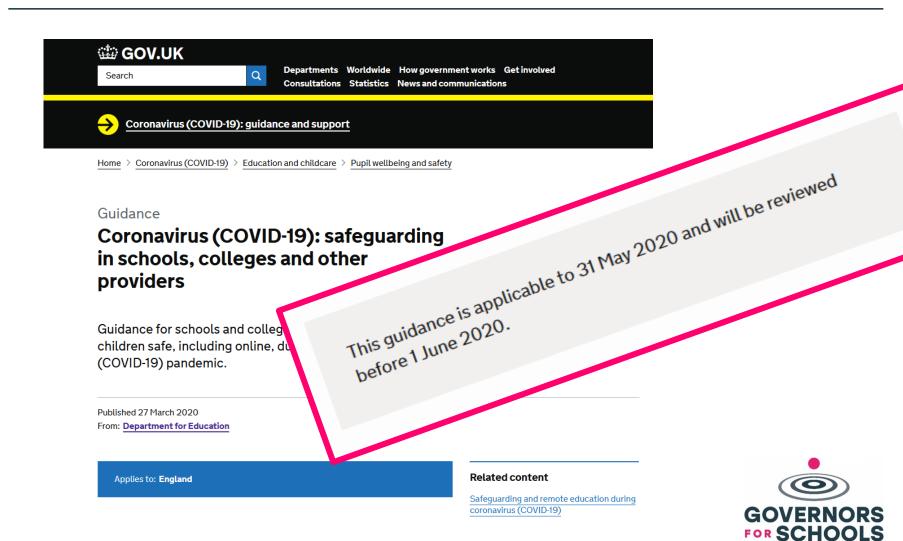
A whole new world!







Government advice/measures



Key Government advice

- Keeping Children Safe in Education remains statutory and in force!
- 'it remains essential that as far as possible they continue to be safe places for children.'
- Five aspects highlighted



Five aspects highlighted

- The best interests of children must always come first
- Safeguarding concerns should still be acted on immediately
- A DSL should be available
- Safer recruitment continues to apply
- Online protection for children is a priority



Schools remaining open: before 1 June

- For children with an Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- For children of key workers
- For sufficient staff to ensure the safety and well being of the children
- For ensuring learning continues

.....so safeguarding must continue



Vulnerable children?

Are expected to be in school if:

- assessed as being in need
- have an Education, health & care plan (EHCP)
- identified/assessed as vulnerable

How do governors know?



Poll # 1



Online Safety

In school:

- filters and monitoring systems in place
- adult supervision
- technical support during lockdown

At home:

- on-line learning platforms
- staff: pupil contact
- Support for children and parents



Mental Health Awareness Week 18th -24th May 2020

- Missing friends and grandparents
- Living in vulnerable circumstances
- Pre-existing mental health conditions
- Anxiety about the pandemic
- Angry, fed up and isolated!
- 33% increase in calls to Childline since lockdown

Poll # 2



Questions for governors:

- Has our safeguarding policy been updated to reflect lockdown measures?
- Have we provided guidance re: online safety to staff and pupils?
- Has the school focused on vulnerable children?
- Has mental health and well-being been considered – esp. this week?

Any questions





Further information:

Safeguarding during Coronavirus

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguardingin-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers

Vulnerable Children

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people



What you need to know, when you need to know it



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