



## Appendix to the Safeguarding Policy – September 2020

### Safeguarding practices during COVID-19

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected including when they are online

In our school, at all times, our current Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy remains in place and the regulations and principles of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', Working Together to Safeguard Children, and the other statutory documents, continue to apply.

All staff follow our Acceptable ICT Use Policy. They have been given training on online safety as part of our annual safeguarding training. All staff have copies of Annex C of Keeping Children Safe in Education and the Government advice on Safeguarding during Remote Education <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>.

We do not use a digital learning environment. This choice was made because of the age and stage of our children.

There are a number of different scenarios to consider regarding safeguarding all children during the current systems of protective measures.

#### **Individual children self isolating**

- The family will be phoned weekly to ensure support can be offered in a timely manner.
- School meals will be provided for those children who are entitled to Benefits Related Free School Meals.
- If the family is being supported by another agency we will phone the agency and ensure that they are aware the child is not currently attending school.
- Online safeguarding advice is shared with parents on our school website's online resources page, including additional and current government advice

#### **Whole classes self isolating**

- Each family will be phoned weekly to ensure support can be offered in a timely manner.
- School meals will be provided for those children who are entitled to Benefits Related Free School Meals
- If any family is being supported by another agency we will phone the agency and ensure that they are aware the child is not currently attending school
- Online safeguarding advice is shared with parents on our school website's online resources page, including additional and current government advice

## School is closed for the vast majority of children

- A Designated Safeguarding Lead will be contacted by staff with any safeguarding concerns at the earliest opportunity. This includes any concerns that have been noted via social media or around the community. All staff have the telephone numbers so that they can be contacted even if school is not open.
- There will be Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead in school every day the school is open for the children of Key workers and those children considered vulnerable during the Coronavirus pandemic. The rest of our safeguarding team are available at all times to discuss and manage cases.
- ViST's will be opened as usual - emails are checked daily at least three times a day with the last time being 3pm on any working day. This is done by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) during the pandemic and communicated to the relevant staff by telephone. Parents will also be called within the week the VIST is received.
- When the school building is open Operation Encompass call will be taken so we can carry on supporting the children including offering a place in school. The family will then be added to our vulnerable calls list. The operation encompass helpline will be used when needed.
- Safeguarding leads will continue to have weekly update meetings. These will be held virtually.
- School meals will be provided for those children who are entitled to Benefits Related Free School Meals.
- If any family is being supported by another agency we will phone the agency and ensure that they are aware if the child is not currently attending school.
- The vulnerability of individual pupils has been considered by class teachers and the Designated Safeguarding Leads. They have identified which children should continue to come to school. This includes all families who have had social care involvement. *Where appropriate discussions have been held with social workers and family support workers about inviting these children to school and what to do if they choose not to come to school.*
  - o Where vulnerable children are not attending school a Designated Safeguarding Lead will maintain contact with the family by telephone on a weekly basis. This is additional to support provided by professionals such as family support workers and social workers. Records of all vulnerable pupil contacts are kept securely in school or on password protected school equipment (*in line with our record keeping policy*)
- Online safeguarding advice is shared with parents on our school website's online resources page, including additional and current government advice
- **If we or another school acts as a local 'hub' on certain days during the pandemic.**
  - o Teachers/TAs from the school of any child attending will be attending with them
  - o The names of staff attending are sent to the hub school This means the hub school are fully aware of the expected adults.
  - o Staff will follow their own schools safeguarding policy as well as having regard for the continued importance of regular safeguarding practices that are within the hub school's safeguarding policy
  - o Teacher will work with the safeguarding lead in the hub school. If there is a concern they will also contact one of their own safeguarding leads. All Designated Safeguarding Leads phone numbers have been given to all staff and to the hub school.
  - o All staff are told about the hub school's whistleblowing policy, ensuring that any concerns
  - o are communicated through the right channels
  - o Contact and medical details will be shared appropriately for any child attending a hub