



This is a revised addendum to our Child Protection Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19 and the phased return of more children into the school from June 17th 2020. Please ensure that this is read and understood in conjunction with our current Child Protection Policy.

Due to the current unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 virus it is necessary that all schools are prepared and have appropriate arrangements in place in relation to the management of any safeguarding or child protection concerns both on and off site following the phased return of more children to the school. Therefore, we have produced this revised addendum to our existing school's Child Protection Policy Template to ensure all staff, Governors and parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time. This **MUST** be regularly reviewed in light of continuing changes.

The principles of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 continue to determine the expectations of schools and settings in keeping children safe in school at this time and include:

- 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 when they are online

Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies

On Site: While our school site is open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, and the phased return of more children, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are Mrs Kelly, Mrs Downey and Mrs Houghton and continue to be our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies due to their level of training and skill. There will be a DSL physically on our school site every day.

Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children

The Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are fully aware of their vulnerable children and those they are expecting into school each day, should that child not arrive then the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy will make contact with the parent or carer immediately and if no response contact front door services immediately.

Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will continue to contact vulnerable children and their families in the following timescales if the school is closed or these children do not return to school during the phased return: children the subject of a Child Protection Plan (daily), children who have a Child in Need Plan (weekly), Looked After Children (weekly dependent on the child's individual placement needs) or children with an Early Help Plan (weekly).

If there are any issues raised during this time regarding their care, safety or ability to be contacted then the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will follow their local safeguarding procedures and contact their local front door services immediately (as per the school's Child Protection Policy).

Availability and contact arrangements for families and professionals who wish to make contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies

During these unprecedented circumstances the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be available to be contacted by children, families and other services and agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all our vulnerable children. They can be contacted via our school telephone number in the first instance and whether they are on or off site they will gain contact with any family or professional as soon as possible.

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day 9am-3.30pm ONLY. Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving calls and messages outside of these times. In the event that children or families need support immediately please contact children's services on 0191 5205560 (out of hours 0191 5205552) or contact the Police.

Designated Safeguarding Leads will continue to work with the local authority, social workers, local authority designated officer/DO and Virtual Headteacher, upon the phased return of more children to school. This will involve, communicating and liaising information about children, updated advice received regarding children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, changes to reporting mechanisms or referral thresholds and additional support required for any child with a multi-agency plan or intervention.

Response to Safeguarding or Child Protection Concerns

As always our school's duty of care is to keep children safe and while the arrangements of the physical care of children and physical presence of our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies may be different during this time the school's response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school's Child Protection Policy.

Upon the return of more children to school, staff and volunteers may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children, for example disclosures of risk of harm, peer on peer abuse or any negative experiences during the time of lockdown and isolation. Staff and volunteers should be clear that they must continue to follow our school's Child Protection Policy and report concerns immediately regarding any child to the Designated Safeguarding Leads (following the on/off site arrangements in place). Once verbally reported this should be documented following our school's recording procedures. Every effort to gain accurate information from the parent and child on their return to school should be taken including, health, mental health, peer on peer abuse and any changes in circumstances.

Response to safeguarding concerns regarding adults in school

As stated in our school's Child Protection Policy, any concerns that may be raised regarding any adult's behaviour in school towards a child should be reported immediately to the Headteacher.

Support for children who remain home schooled

Continued arrangements will remain in place for those children who are home schooled. Regular, agreed contact will remain in place for those children and their parents, including checking on their online activity and how they are supported and supervised at home.

Attendance Procedures

Although attendance of children at school during this time is not statutory. Regular contact with children who are vulnerable should be maintained and actioned as stated above.

