



### **Addendum to Child Protection Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19**

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 during this time. Therefore, we have produced this cover note/addendum to our existing Academy's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy to ensure all staff, Trustees and Parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time.

#### Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies

##### On Site:

While our school site remains open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are Mrs Dickson and Mr Jackson and continue to be our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies due to their level of training and skill.

However due to these circumstances they may not physically be on our school site every day. In this case a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be physically on site each day and will liaise directly with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies if any incidents of a child protection nature occur.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be available at all times by phone for all members of staff who have any concerns in relation to any child. All staff have the phone numbers of both the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy.

##### Off Site:

While our school site is closed to the majority of students during these circumstances, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are Mrs Dickson and Mr Jackson and continue to be our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies due to their level of training and skill.

While we are closed to the majority of students our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies/Head's of Year will continue to remain in contact with those children who we deem are vulnerable or have a multi-agency statutory plan in place to safeguard them. Our Pastoral Team (Head's of Year, Assistant Head's of Year, Form tutors, Student Support Assistants) will continue to remain in touch with parents and students either through email or phone calls.

### Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children

Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies/Pastoral team will continue to contact vulnerable children and their families in the following timescales if the school is closed or these children are not on site:

- children the subject of a Child Protection Plan (twice weekly depending on the need of the family / child),
- children who have a Child in Need Plan (twice weekly or weekly dependant on the family and child's needs),
- Looked After Children (weekly dependent on the child's individual placement needs)
- children with an Early Help Plan (twice weekly or weekly dependant on the family and child's needs).

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 our local safeguarding procedures and contact Together for Children immediately (as per our 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 the 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 8.30am-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 Together for Children immediately (as per the information within the Child Protection Policy) or contact the Police.

### Response to safeguarding or child protection concerns

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

- Peer on Peer abuse

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education when managing reports and supporting victims of peer-on-peer abuse.

- Concerns about a staff member or volunteer

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education. Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately.

We will continue to refer adults who have harmed or pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

## Online safety

### **In school**

We will continue to have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place in school.

### **Outside school**

Where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow our existing staff Behaviour Policy, Code of Conduct, and ICT Acceptable Use Policy.

Staff will continue to be alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm online, and act on any concerns immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out above in the addendum.

We will make sure children know how to report any concerns they have back to our school, and signpost them to other sources of support too.

### **Working with parents and carers**

We will make sure parents and carers:

- Are aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of staying safe online
- Know what our school is asking children to do online, including what sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school
- Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online

## Mental health

Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils.

We will also signpost all pupils, parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

Issued 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in light of:

DFE issued interim coronavirus (Covid -19 ): safeguarding in schools colleges and other providers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Code of Conduct
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- Health and Safety Policy