



## Annex to Child Protection Policy (Covid-19/Spring Term 2021)

Following the outbreak of Covid-19 and the Government's response to manage the pandemic, Biddick Academy is operating differently to how we normally deliver education and support to our pupils and their families. Many pupils are at home and we have a reduction in the amount of staff available. Despite this, **the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils remains paramount.**

Biddick Academy continues to follow [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/keeping-children-safe-in-education)

### Current advice from Together for Children (TfC)

TfC is in regular communication with schools and will continue to provide support and advice as necessary. This policy will be updated by the Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead to reflect the advice given by TfC and the 3 safeguarding partners.

Key messages from TfC [correct as of 04/01/2021]:

- It is 'business as usual' for our Children's Social Care Teams and Early Help Service. Social Workers and Early Help Workers are continuing to visit children and families within timescales.
- Social Workers and Early Help Workers have risk assessed each child and family to ensure they receive the appropriate level of support in these challenging times.
- **All concerns (even if the child is already open to a Social Worker) should be shared via ICRT and followed up with a written referral.** Contacts and referrals received in this way will be triaged by ICRT and sent to the appropriate Social Worker and team.
- Do not assume Social Workers are at work and/or have access to their emails. If you need to contact a Social Worker you should call them directly or the respective duty number.
- The process for contacting the Designated Officer (Danielle Rose) have not changed.
- Thresholds and how to refer to Early Help and Children's Social Care **have not changed.** DSLs should continue to use [Sunderland Threshold Guidance](#).



## **The current school position**

All students, regardless of whether they are working from home or as part of the Vulnerable Pupil and Key Worker Provision will follow their normal timetable with all lessons live streamed to them through 'Microsoft Teams' by their teachers.

Pupils should follow the guidance published on the website in relation to live streaming.

If a teacher is unable to live stream a lesson, then they will upload the work to Teams and leave a message in the chat function to identify where the work for that lesson has been uploaded.

## **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 IT 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 through the remote learning guidance:

- 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.

## Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) arrangements



**Biddick**  
Academy

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Sarah Dickson, Tel: 0191 5111 600, [Dickson.s@biddickacademy.com](mailto:Dickson.s@biddickacademy.com).

The Deputy DSL is: Gavin Jackson, Tel: 0191 5111 600, [Jackson.G@biddickacademy.com](mailto:Jackson.G@biddickacademy.com).

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.

Following DfE guidance, we ensure there is a DSL always available when the school is open, preferably on-site.

If a DSL is not on-site, a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will take responsibility for safeguarding. A trained DSL will also be available on-call.

### 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.



## Reporting 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. Staff will continue to report any concern on the safeguarding reporting system, CPOMS. 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.
- Staff and volunteers will report any safeguarding concerns to a DSL as described in the paragraph above.
- If a DSL is not available, any staff or volunteer who has a concern about a child's welfare should made a referral to TfC – Integrated Contact and Referral Team (ICRT) on 0191 520 5560.

## Identifying and supporting vulnerable pupils

Following advice from TfC we have risk assessed all pupils using a Red, Amber, Blue, Green system. We will endeavour to ensure the risk assessment frequency of contact is as stated, however, this is subject to change, depending on personal circumstances, contextual information and at the discretion of the DSL / DDSL.

Category and priority	Suggested children	Frequency of contact – for each pupil who is going contact them, when and how?
<b>Red</b> – pupils most at risk with few protective factors	Pupils on child protection plans Pupils on child in need plans Pupils open to early help Pupils open to Youth Offending Service	Recommended at least twice per week.  Discuss each child with social worker or early help lead professional.  <b>Daily phone call (HOY / AHOY) and 1 home visit per week (AO).</b>
<b>Amber</b> – pupils at moderate risk with some protective factors	Children in care Young carers You may want to include some pupils on the 'edge' of children's social care intervention Pupils who are deemed vulnerable due to SEMH issues	Recommended at least twice per week.  <b>Phone call 2x per week and any concerns or lack of contact a home visit will be carried out.</b>



<p>Blue – pupils who you have some concerns about</p>	<p>Pupils on the ‘edge’ of children’s social care intervention  Pupils with a recent Operation Encompass/Endeavour notification  Pupils who have recently closed to children’s social care/EH  Pupils who are deemed vulnerable due to SEMH issues  Any Green pupil who is not accessing remote learning will be moved into this category.</p>	<p>Recommended at least once per week.   1x phone call per week and any concerns or lack of contact a home visit will be carried out.</p>
<p>Green</p>	<p>All other pupils</p>	<p>Recommended once per week.   All students will be contacted via class charts messaging once per week.   Form tutors to send a fortnightly email.   HOY / AHOY to make at least one phone call each ½ term.</p>

- A DSL alongside the Pastoral Team has risk assessed each pupil who is Red, Amber or Blue and has made a record of the risk assessment.
- A DSL will review each risk assessment weekly and record any changes to the risk assessment.
- If a child has a Social Worker or an Early Help Worker, the HOY will contact each professional to share the school’s risk assessment and contribute to the ongoing plan to safeguard each child.
- If a child has a Social Worker or an Early Help Worker, the Pastoral team made all reasonable attempts to encourage the child to attend school, providing there’s no significant risk to the child’s health.
- Every contact with a child or family will be recorded on the Spring Term Lockdown Tracking document.

## Children Looked After (CLA)

- Our Designated Teacher for CLA is Sarah Dickson
- Our DT CLA has worked closely with the HOY responsible and has ensured each child’s Social Worker, carer, those with PR (where appropriate) and the Virtual School have been contacted to discuss the plan for the child’s education.
- Children looked after will not be moved schools including to “hub schools” or within the MAT without first consulting the Virtual Headteacher.
- The Virtual School link worker will, in addition to school monitoring, make safe and well calls twice per week.



## Increased risk

- We recognise that there is increased pressure on families at this time. There will be additional worries about health, finance and employment.
- We are aware some families will need extra support with things like food parcels and benefits advice.
- We recognise that the current situation will affect pupils and their parent's/carer's mental health.
- Any concerns will be reported to the DSL. See DSL arrangements above.

## Attendance

- We are following advice issued by DfE in relation to [attendance recording for education settings](#).
- Where a pupil who is expected to arrive does not arrive, we will try to make contact with the parent/carer by 9.00am.
- If we have been unable to contact the pupil's parent/carer or emergency contacts by 9.30am the DSL will be informed. See DSL arrangements above.
- The DSL will further attempt to make contact with the family. The DSL will also contact any other professionals involved with the pupil e.g. Social Worker.
- The DSL will undertake a risk assessment to decide on further action required.

## Peer-on-Peer Abuse

- We recognise the importance of responding to peer-on-peer abuse.
- We recognise some pupils will be at greater risk of peer-on-peer abuse due to spending more time at home and online.
- Staff and volunteers will remain vigilant to the signs and indicators of peer-on-peer abuse and will report any concerns to the DSL. See DSL arrangements above.

## Concerns about a member of the workforce

- **It could happen here.** Staff and volunteers should continue to report any concern, no matter how small to a DSL.
- If there is a concern about a member of staff or volunteer's behaviour, you should report it to the DSL in the first instance
- If the above person is not available then you should contact Mr Delf, Senior Deputy Headteacher, 0191 5111600, [delf.t@biddickacademy.com](mailto:delf.t@biddickacademy.com).
- If the concern is in relation to the Headteacher then you should report it to Mr Tindle, Chair of Trustee's, [tindle.i@biddickacademy.com](mailto:tindle.i@biddickacademy.com).
- Allegations about the workforce should be reported to the Designated Officer (Danielle Rose) by following the procedure available here: <https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/professionals/LADO>

## Further Guidance

Awaiting further guidance from DfE.