



Child Protection Policy

Appendix 5 - Safeguarding Arrangements during Covid 19 outbreak

This appendix outlines the changes to school practice and procedures during the school closures caused by the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid 19) in 2020. It outlines how children will be safeguarded, how statutory safeguarding duties will be undertaken and the practicalities of reporting any safeguarding concerns.

Children In School

For those children still in school, the standard practice is to be followed. Any concerns are to be recorded on a green forms and passed to the DSL.

Children identified as vulnerable (as defined in government document) or those with an EHCP are to be given a place in school. Children with a CP are to be expected in school unless a social worker agrees that it is in their best interests to stay at home.

DSL arrangements

Where possible, we will endeavour to have a DSL on site every day. If there are any concerns through monitoring of children at home or in school, refer to a member of the safeguarding team.

Moira Cross

Sinead McGroarty

Jo Smith

Verity Lewis

Whistleblowing

As the role of the Local Governing Body has been suspended during these unprecedented times, concerns around the Head Teacher should be directed to Community Academies Trust's Safeguarding Lead or the Primary Director of the Trust. Details of these important contacts can be accessed by emailing enquiries@communityacademiestrust.org.

Children on Child Protection Plans

School will liaise with families and their social worker about what is best for them during this time. Safe and well checks will be completed by the social worker unless there is an alternative arrangement in place with school.

A place for these pupils will remain open throughout the duration of the school closure. It will be determined by all involved whether these children will be in school.

Daily welfare calls will be completed by school to check on the children and to see if there is any support that needs to be put in place.

SLT will attend Child Protection Conferences either by video call or by submitting a report throughout the period of closure.

Looked After Children

The provision for these children will be decided by their Local Authority. There will be a space in school for them every day during the school closure. However, if the Local Authority deem that they will be safe at home, school will maintain regular contact through welfare calls.

Attendance

If children are expected in school on a given day but do not arrive, a call will be made to check on their whereabouts by 9:30am.

Children at Home

Welfare calls

All children at home will receive a welfare call every week to check how things are to see that the children are safe. These will be conducted by the safeguarding team and a welfare log is to be updated daily.

If there are any concerns arising as a result of these calls, the usual procedures will be followed. This could be green form reporting, MASH consultation or completion of a MARF. Any concerns are to be shared in the daily SLT conference call at the end of the day.

Interaction with staff

The children are expected to use the Eschools platform to keep in touch with their class and teacher. This is monitored by teachers, teaching assistants and SLT.

No member of staff is to engage with a child on a 1:1 basis. No video calls or telephone calls are to be made to individual pupils unless directed by SLT for a specific purpose.

Children reporting/ disclosing

Children have a red whistle on their Eschools platform which they can use if they want to report something to their teacher. Staff have been advised that if they receive a message through this mechanism, they are to treat this as they would with a disclosure in school and report it immediately to a member of the safeguarding team.

Children also have access to the Childline phone number through their Eschools page and work was completed in the run up to closure so all pupils are aware it is there.

Peer on peer abuse

As with all social media platforms, children have the potential to use the schools Eschools platform to cause harm to others. In order to counteract this, the chat forums are monitored by teachers, teaching assistants and SLT on a daily basis. Any inappropriate messages are addressed directly with the children. Eschools has built in filters and any inappropriate language is reported directly to the system administrator.

Information for parents

Information about keeping children safe online has been added to the school website page in the Help at Home section under Remote Learning. Regular reminders can be included in the newsletter that will be sent out at a minimum fortnightly over the period of closure.

Amendment written by M Cross

Date - 30th March 2020

