

## Safeguarding Guidance for Schools (COVID-19 arrangements)

DfE guidance was issued on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – see link below for the full advice.

<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>

Below is a summary of that guidance for us.

- Continue to adhere to **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019**

### Priorities for schools

- Keeping children safe
- Continue to report any safeguarding concerns immediately using existing systems
- DSL/DDSL should be available – could be phone or possible online eg video call. If there is no trained person on site due to staff restrictions, a member of the SLT should take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding. All staff should know who the available DSL/DDSL is each day and how they can be contacted. If there is a DSL/DDSL whose training has expired, they should continue in the role and be regarded as trained.
- Continue to consider online risks and how to protect children online (both in school and at home)

### Review and revise Child Protection policy as required

This should include a COVID-19 addendum which covers the updated advice from the government as it may apply to any new procedures or arrangements. Any updated policy should be emailed to all staff.

These are some of the main issues we have considered in light of this advice, this list is by no means exhaustive and any staff with additional ideas or who is concerned that this does not meet the specific needs of any child is obliged to alert SLT (Kate Stevens, Kev Kinsella, Tania Readman- DSL, Wane Parkes)

- How is school supporting children who are vulnerable? Form staff call home daily and ask: Are you all well? Do you need any additional support? Are you completing work packs? Can we support with school work?
- What will you do if parents do not answer your calls? Form staff will text, try other contact details, put in a MARF form – following consultation with DSL.
- Absence – what are the follow-up arrangements for children who should be attending school but are absent? All parent/carers will be contacted daily to ascertain the situation and encourage attendance in school.
- How is Safeguarding information being shared if you have students attending from other schools? DSL will follow our own policy and make arrangements to obtain SG information.
- If staff are working online with students, the “code of conduct” must still be adhered to. What other precautions and safeguarding measures are being put into place? We currently do not work online with students.
- Are there any changes to the safeguarding induction process for staff from other schools who join you for example, or volunteers? We will follow school policy.

- If you are using volunteers or recruiting new staff, you must follow existing safer recruitment procedures and complete robust risk assessments.
- Are there any alternative DSL arrangements required in your school due to absence etc? currently not.
- Are there any adjustments to how staff would report concerns about other adults working with children? None.
- Is your Single Central Record being kept up to date? Yes by Kev Kinsella, deputy Kate Stevens.
- Do you need to change any processes in reporting and managing peer on peer abuse?
- What are you doing differently to support children online? Daily phone calls to support parents/ carers from form staff.

### **Children with a Social Worker**

The expectation is that these children will attend school unless it has been decided by the SW and the family that it is not in the best interests of the child.

### **Working across schools**

Staff who are working across different schools should be made aware, through induction, of safeguarding processes within the setting as well as who the DSL/DDSL are.

If children are attending a different setting then the receiving school should be made aware of any relevant welfare and child protection information.

Where appropriate the receiving school should receive copies of

- Education and Health Care Plan
- Child in Need Plan
- Child Protection Plan
- Looked After Children – Personal Education Plan and name of their social worker as well as name of the Virtual School Head
- These should be received ideally before the child arrives but realistically as soon as possible. If DSL/DDSL not available to receive then a member of the SLT should do so.

### **Safer Recruitment**

- If you are recruiting at this time continue to follow the safer recruitment guidelines in KCSIE Part 3.
- Where schools and colleges are using volunteers, they should continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances should a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

### **Mental Health**

- Continue to be vigilant and aware of children's mental health and how this may present in changes in their behaviour. Continue to support within school and use the white "Services Directory" (on LTS and in DSL pack) to signpost parents who are struggling with specific issues.