

**Addendum to Child Protection Policy**  
**Covid-19 Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection**

## **1. CONTEXT**

From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 Academy Primary School reopened to all pupils following lockdown.

Covid-19 has created much uncertainty in the lives of our children and their families. Daily routines, family life, friendship groups and the safe space that schools provide have been disrupted. For many children, the need to spend most of their time at home brought an additional challenge, and for some this brought additional safeguarding risks.

Moving forward, it is essential that the adults responsible for safeguarding children are sensitive to their physical, social and emotional needs as they emerge from lockdown. It is critically important that children who are, or may be, at risk are identified so that a proportionate, compassionate and sensitive response can be made.

## **2. PROCEDURES**

Staff will continue to follow the procedures outlined in our school's Child Protection Policy.

In addition, the following arrangements have been put in place to support families and monitor pupil safety in these uncertain times to include any periods of isolation and/or lockdown:

- The school email address, teachers' email addresses, main school phone number and an emergency mobile number have been made available to all parents via the school website if school is closed for any further lockdowns.
- Parents have been informed that during an enforced period of closure the DT is contactable on this number, outside of school hours parents should contact PSNI or Social Services in an emergency.
- With a full return to school there is no longer any requirement for blended learning approaches. We will review how we manage this for children who are not attending.
- Where children are shielding, or class bubbles go into isolation, teachers will be required to provide online learning via the school website/ C2k platform/Seesaw. Strict procedures are in place to minimise risk.
- The website will provide parents with a range of hard copy resources and links to additional online learning, support and guidance, should that continue to be required.
- We will remind pupils and staff to stay safe when using online resources and to report any concerns to a parent in the first instance or to a member of the safeguarding team.
- In line with the information previously provided to schools by the EA CPSS, teachers may make phone calls to parents, when children are non-attending. These will be pastoral in nature and a record will be kept of any issues reported by parents. Any concerns around pupil well-being will be shared without delay with the DT.
- If a member of staff is using their personal telephone their number will be withheld to ensure the protection of private information of staff

### **3. ONLINE SAFETY**

In order to ensure the safety of pupils and staff, the following guidance should be followed if staff and pupils are engaging in online teaching/communication using video conferencing or platforms recommended by or available via C2K.

- Teachers and pupils need to be fully dressed and should not wear pyjamas/sleep wear during the session.
- Students may not participate in a video conferences from a bedroom.
- The teacher will arrange the session and only share the password with pupils.
- Pupils must agree not to share the password with anyone else.
- Parental consent will be sought before their child attends online sessions.
- A disclosure or concern over any online forum will be followed up as it would be in school.
- Online sessions should be time limited for the benefit of both children and teachers.

If there is a breach to any of these procedures e.g. pupil gives the password to someone else who joins the group, the teacher should immediately terminate the session and advise the Principal and DT.

### **4. HOW A PARENT CAN RAISE AN ISSUE OR EXPRESS A CONCERN**

We would welcome parents asking for advice and help if they have concerns about their child's well-being or safety.

Asking for help is a protective factor and parental concerns and requests for help will always be taken seriously.

Any member of staff will listen carefully to parental concerns and ensure that the request for help, if necessary, is brought to the attention of the DT. The DT will bring the matter to the attention of the safeguarding team to determine how best to provide help/proceed.

### **5. IF SCHOOL IS OPEN DURING COVID-19 CLOSURES**

If school is open for vulnerable pupils and key workers' children during a period of lockdown the school will adhere to the EA guidance.

If our school is part of a cluster of schools which are open, we will share relevant safeguarding information with the Designated Teacher and/or Principal. In accordance with our Child Protection procedures this information will be shared on a need to know basis.

In any event, we will follow current Department of Education and Department of Health guidelines regarding social distancing, hygiene and personal protective equipment to ensure the safety of both pupils and staff.

## 6. HOW A CHILD CAN RAISE A CONCERN

We know that while many children will enjoy remaining at home during a period of lockdown and remain almost unaffected by this unusual situation, there will be others who feel afraid, lonely and/or may miss school. Our safeguarding responsibility to all of our children continues, and we will seek to maintain contact with our children as well as signpost them via appropriate channels (parents?) to other agencies.

We will use the following means to protect/connect with our children:

- All our children will have an electronic means of connecting with school during a period of lockdown or extended absence
- Respond to any concerning comments our children may post on Seesaw or Google Classrooms.
- Respond to emails from parents expressing concerns via the staff email addresses or C2K addresses.
- When contacting parents via phone, where there is a concern for a child's wellbeing/safety, we will always ask to speak to the child.
- Signpost our pupils and parents to other Agencies
  - NSPCC
  - Childline
  - CEOP
  - Safer Schools App

## 7. SOME USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS:

| NAME                | ROLE                  | Contact                                     |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| A.Dickson           | Designated Teacher    | adickson586@c2kni.net                       |
| H. Martin           | Deputy DT             | hmartin452@c2kni.net                        |
| J. Cockroft         | Nursery Link          | jcockroft665@c2kni.net                      |
| R. Fegan            | Principal             | rfegan449@c2kni.net                         |
| Rev. Pollock        | CP Governor           |                                             |
| School mobile       |                       | 07713978181                                 |
| Gateway Services SE | CP referrals          | 0300 1000300<br>(Out of hours) 02895 049999 |
| PSNI                | Central Referral Unit | 02890 259299                                |

- <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/coronavirus>
- <https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/>

- <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline/report-harmful-content>
- <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

## 8. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Safeguarding Team will review and amend these arrangements regularly during the period of Covid-19 school closure in line with Departmental guidance and advice.

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| <b>SIGNED:</b> | <b>Designated Teacher</b>    |
| <b>SIGNED:</b> | <b>Principal</b>             |
| <b>SIGNED:</b> | <b>Safeguarding Governor</b> |

## **Local Help**

### **Your GP**

They will be able to provide help and advice. Your GP can also provide access to appropriate specialist services and local organisations.

### **Call 111**

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

### **NHS mental health services**

Find local mental health services on the NHS website. <http://www.nhs.uk>

## **National Help**

**Childline** Free 24-hour counselling service for children and young people up to their 19th birthday.

[0800 1111](tel:08001111)

<https://www.childline.org.uk>

**NSPCC** Provides helplines and information on child abuse, child protection and safeguarding children.

[0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

**Young Minds** Young Minds has a Parent Helpline that offers free confidential telephone and email support to any adult worried about the wellbeing of a child or young person.

[0808 802 5544](tel:08088025544)

[http://www.youngminds.org.uk/for\\_parents](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/for_parents)

### **Youth Wellbeing Directory**

Helps you find support for mental health and wellbeing of young people up to age 25 across the UK.

<https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/youth-wellbeing/>

### **HaveIGotAProblem.com**

Free resource about mental health and addiction issues.

<http://www.haveigotaproblem.com/>

### **Helplines partnership**

Provides a comprehensive list of mental health helplines in the UK.

<https://helplines.org/helplines/>

**Mental Health Foundation** This website offers a wide range of information about mental health issues.

<http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk>

### **Health Talk Online**

Aims to provide balanced information about the experience of everyday life with a range of health conditions and issues, what to expect both physically and mentally, overcoming

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practical difficulties, making decisions about treatment and talking to health professionals.

<http://www.healthtalk.org/>

### **YouthinMind**

YouthinMind is an online resource for information about mental health and offers brief assessments. It also provides links to other useful books, websites and services. <http://youthinmind.info/py/yiminfo/>