



Safeguarding Children during the COVID-19 measures

Annex to Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

September 2020

Context

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual: our school and nursery are currently open and providing provision for children in class based/nursery bubbles.

This annex to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy sets out details of our safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

1. Version control and dissemination
2. Child Protection and Safeguarding priority
3. Current school position
4. Roles and responsibilities
5. Vulnerable children
6. EHCP children
7. Increased vulnerability or risk
8. Attendance
9. Reporting concerns about children and staff
10. Safeguarding training
11. Safer recruitment and movement of staff
12. Peer on peer abuse
13. Online safety
14. Supporting children not in school

1. Version control and dissemination

This annex to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed by our designated safeguarding lead (DSL) on a fortnightly basis as circumstances continue to evolve or following updated Department for Education advice or guidance. It has been made available to all staff via email.

2. Safeguarding priority

During these challenging times, the safeguarding of all children – whether they are currently at home or attending school – continues to be our priority. The following fundamental safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children continue to come first
- if anyone in our school has a safeguarding concern, they will act immediately
- a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy DSL will always be available
- no unsuitable people will be allowed to gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online.

3. Current school position

Stars Trust is currently open for children. Only current Stars Trust staff are working at Starfish Nursery and Stanley Green Infant Academy and no new staff or volunteers are in attendance. We are keeping up to date and following all government guidance for school.

4. Roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for safeguarding in our school remain in line with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. Our DSL and at least one deputy DSL are available on site during the school day.

5. Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker. Those who have a social worker include children who have a child protection plan, a child in need plan and those who are looked after by the local authority. There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend school, unless they can be safely looked after at home.

We will continue to work with children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) for child protection is Sue Miles. The deputy designated leads are Angela Malanczuk and Nikki Roberjot.

6. EHCP children

Those children with an EHC plan will attend nursery/school unless a risk-assessment in consultation with the local authority and parents has been undertaken to decide whether they need to attend school in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home.

7. Increased vulnerability or risk

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Staff are aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Children attending school/nursery, we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them. Our staff are aware of the mental health of children and their parents and carers and will contact the DSL or a deputy DSL if they have any concerns.

8. Attendance

DFE Guidance 2020 –

From the start of the autumn term 2020 pupil attendance will be mandatory and the usual rules on attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence

- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

Where a vulnerable child does not attend school, we will notify their social worker. Nursery/School will risk assess non-attending children.

9. Reporting concerns about children or staff

The importance of all staff acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns remains.

Staff will continue to follow our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy procedures and advise the DSL of any concerns they have about any child, including those who are not attending school.

The varied arrangements in place as a result of the COVID-19 measures do not reduce the risks that children may face from staff. As such, it remains extremely important that any allegations of abuse made against staff attending our school are dealt with thoroughly and efficiently and in accordance with our Allegations Against Staff Policy.

10. Staff training

All current school staff have received safeguarding training and have read Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

11. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, we will continue to follow our Safer Recruitment policy. It is essential from a safeguarding perspective that we are aware, on any given day, which staff are on our school site and that the appropriate checks have been carried out on those individuals. We will continue to maintain our single central record (SCR) during these measures to ensure we have this awareness.

12. Peer on peer abuse

We recognise that children can abuse their peers and our staff are clear about the school's policy and procedures regarding peer on peer abuse. All peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. We also recognise that abuse can still occur during a school closure or partial closure and between those children who do attend the school site during these measures.

Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse and will follow the process set out in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

13. Online safety

It is likely that children will be using the internet and engaging with social media far more during this time.

Our staff are aware of the signs of cyberbullying and other online risks and our school filtering and monitoring software remains in use during this time to safeguarding and support children. Our staff will follow the process for online safety set out in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Staff who interact with children online will continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. If a staff member is concerned about a child, that staff member will follow the approach set out in this annex and report that concern to the DSL or to a deputy DSL. Teachers will follow agreed protocols when using online software to video call pupils.

14. Supporting children not in school

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive additional pastoral support in school, they will ensure that a communication plan is in place to support that child. Details of that plan will be recorded and reviewed regularly to ensure it remains current during these measures.

Where children are not in school/nursery due to self-isolation. Online learning will be provided and marked by their current class teacher or Head of Year. Following our Online Learning Policy.