

## **1. Context**

Following advice from the DFE dated 06/10/2020 this addendum has been written to clarify arrangements for safeguarding and child protection due to the ongoing national COVID-19 response.

This addendum will be in place for as long as alternative arrangements for provision are in place. The addendum will be removed from the Child Protection Policy when normal operating procedures in school are resumed.

The addendum may be revised and adapted at any time to reflect changing advice and guidance from relevant authorities.

## **2. Principles**

The way schools are currently operating in response to COVID-19 is fundamentally different to business as usual. However, safeguarding principles remain the same:

with regards to safeguarding, the best interests of children remain the same if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately a DSL or deputy should be available it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children children should continue to be protected when they are online.

## **3. School Position**

When operating home learning due to national or local lockdown, 'critical worker' and 'vulnerable' children are entitled to remain in school. Teaching Assistants supervise and manage school learners; teachers remain at home providing online lessons. This is subject to change as a result of staff health and isolation requirements. We are not using staff from other schools, students or volunteers during this time.

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with EHC Plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend school, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. Where a parent does not want their child to attend school, and their child is considered vulnerable, we will discuss this with the social worker and explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Those with an EHC Plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the parents to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC Plans can safely remain at home.

In school:

The school buildings and rooms where children are being cared for are cleaned regularly to minimise risks of infection to the children and staff.

Social distancing of 2m is being practised wherever possible, using reduced numbers of chairs at desks, the outside areas and individual resources to be used as much as possible.

Children are washing their hands thoroughly and regularly.

Should any child or staff member show signs of infection the DSL staff member should be informed immediately and immediate action taken to isolate the individual in the designated quarantine room kept separate for this purpose (currently the Nursery overspill room). Staff members must follow current Government guidance on self-isolation and the DSL call upon reserve staff to take over duties to maintain adequate adult: pupil ratios. The ill person should be removed from site to home at the earliest possible opportunity.

#### **4. KCSIE (Keeping Children Safe in Education)**

The guidance in KCSIE (Part 1) continues to underpin the work that RW does to ensure all children are kept safe. All staff who are attending school to provide emergency care are familiar with KCSIE as part of their ongoing safeguarding CPD.

During the COVID-19 response, RW is not using any volunteers or student teachers so induction for new adults on site is not applicable.

#### **5. Procedures / Protocols**

##### **a. What should staff do if they have a concern about a child?**

The main child protection policy continues to apply. Staff are expected to inform a DSL as soon as possible through our usual procedures.

All concerns, whether relating to a child attending school or at home, should continue to be acted upon swiftly

##### **b. What should staff do if they have a safeguarding concern relating to a member of staff?**

In accordance to the child protection policy these concerns **should not** be reported to the DSL team but should be reported to the **head teacher**

**immediately.** If the head teacher is not on site then these can be reported to the assistant head teacher, or to Jacqueline Logue.

The head teacher will then follow existing procedures to deal with such concerns.

#### **c. DSL / Deputy DSL arrangements**

While RW continues to be open to provide care for vulnerable children and children of key workers a DSL or Deputy DSL will be on site at all times.

All members of the DSL team can be contacted through email (or by phone) at any time.

The DSL team will liaise with each other regularly to keep abreast of any issues with staff or pupils. Colleagues not in school will join in with this remotely.

#### **d. Safeguarding all children**

To ensure all children are kept safe and contact is maintained the following procedures are in place:

- The most vulnerable children, as defined by the DfE, and including those children with a social worker, looked after children and some children with EHC plans will be contacted by school regularly. Where other professionals are involved (eg SW) then these professionals will also be contacted regularly
- Other children that do not meet the criteria above but who are still deemed vulnerable will be contacted by a member of the DSL team regularly
- Parents have been reminded of year group email addresses as a way of contacting class teachers if there are any issues
- The school enquiry email address and telephone number is available to all parents should they need to get in touch with the school for any reason.

Since January 2021, the following procedures were put in place:

- **All children** will be contacted at least weekly by either their class teacher or a nominated member of staff in the event of the class teacher being absent.
- *Please note that, in line with guidance, staff will be withholding the number they are calling from in order to protect it*
- Staff will be informed on what to do if they are unable to contact a family

- Guidelines to follow when keeping in touch with children and families will be circulated to all members of staff.

#### **e. Mental health and well-being**

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents.

Staff will remain aware of this in setting expectations for home learning.

Where we are providing for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Our staff will be aware of the mental health of children and their parents and carers and will contact the DSL or a deputy if they have any concerns.

Parents will be provided with any useful guidance or support which will continue throughout these alternative arrangements for provision.

#### **f. Keeping safe online**

Our children will be using the internet and engaging with social media far more during this time. It is vital we continue to raise awareness of online safety both in school and at home.

Our staff will monitor online learning through Seesaw/Zoom/Google Classroom or via email and report any concerns in the usual way.

Dedicated email addresses for each year group are available and are monitored by staff where parents can raise any concerns relating to home learning.

#### **g. 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 Policy.

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