

# Child protection and safeguarding: COVID-19 addendum

Kentish Town CE Primary School



**Approved by:** [Grant Jacobson] **Date:** [02/04/20]

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## Important Contacts

### Kentish Town CE Primary School – 0207 485 1279

#### Headteacher/Principal:

Name: James Humphries  
Contact details: [head@kentishtown.camden.sch.uk](mailto:head@kentishtown.camden.sch.uk)

#### Designated safeguarding lead:

Name: Grant Jacobson  
Contact details: [senco@kentishtown.camden.sch.uk](mailto:senco@kentishtown.camden.sch.uk) or  
[deputyhead@kentishtown.camden.sch.uk](mailto:deputyhead@kentishtown.camden.sch.uk)

#### Deputy designated safeguarding lead:

Name: James Humphries  
Contact details: [head@kentishtown.camden.sch.uk](mailto:head@kentishtown.camden.sch.uk)

#### Nominated governor for child protection:

Name: Jacqueline Ewers  
Contact details: [admin@kentishtown.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kentishtown.camden.sch.uk)

If you would like to contact the Chair/Vice Chair of the Governing Body or the Safeguarding Governor please use the emails below.

Chair of Governors – Colin Reader – Email: [colin.reader@sky.com](mailto:colin.reader@sky.com)

Vice Chair of Governors – Rachel Wrangham – Email: [r.wrangham@gmail.com](mailto:r.wrangham@gmail.com)

Safeguarding Governor – Jacqueline Ewers – Email: [ewersbarsoux@gmail.co.uk](mailto:ewersbarsoux@gmail.co.uk)

**Childline Helpline: 0800 1111**

**The school has four members of staff trained at Designated Safeguarding Lead Level.**

**They are: James Humphries-Headteacher and Deputy DSL, Grant Jacobson-Deputy Headteacher and Designated Lead and Emma Benham, Assistant Headteacher and Deputy DSL and Miriam Nadarajah, TICARB, in the event that the Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher are offsite.**

The Senior Administrator and Finance Officer-Sarah Haag- is also trained to DSL level to ensure that the statutory record keeping is maintained beyond compliance.

## 1. Scope and definitions

This addendum applies during the period of school closure due to COVID-19, and reflects updated advice from our local safeguarding partnership and Camden local authority (LA).

It sets out changes to our normal child protection policy in light of the Department for Education's guidance [Coronavirus: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#), and should be read in conjunction with that policy.

Unless covered here, our normal child protection policy continues to apply.

The Department for Education's (DfE's) definition of 'vulnerable children' includes those who:

- › Have a social worker, including children:
  - With a child protection plan
  - Assessed as being in need
  - Looked after by the local authority
- › Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

## 2. Core safeguarding principles

We will still have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

Although we are operating in a different way to normal, we are still following these important safeguarding principles:

- › The best interests of children must come first
- › If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act on it immediately
- › A designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy should be available at all times (see section 4 for details of our arrangements)
- › It's essential that unsuitable people don't enter the school workforce or gain access to children
- › Children should continue to be protected when they are online

## 3. Reporting concerns

All staff and volunteers must continue to act on any concerns they have about a child immediately. It is still vitally important to do this.

**Staff must report any concerns directly to James/Grant as DS Leads. My Concern is an online platform and concerns can still be formally recorded remotely. Additionally, staff must ensure that they have the mobile contact phone numbers of the DSL team from the staff phone list.**

As a reminder, all staff should continue to work with and support children's social workers, where they have one, to help protect vulnerable children.

## 4. DSL (and deputy) arrangements

We aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible. DSLs will be contactable by phone at all times. Details of all important contacts are listed in the 'Important contacts' section at the start of this addendum.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be in school, they can be contacted by phone at all times.

We will keep all school staff and volunteers informed by email/text as to any changes as to who will be the DSL (or deputy) on any given day, and how to contact them.

We will ensure that DSLs (and deputies), wherever their location, know who the most vulnerable children in our school are.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding.

The senior leader will be responsible for liaising with the off-site DSL (or deputy) to make sure they (the senior leader) can:

- Identify the most vulnerable children in school
- Update and manage access to child protection files, where necessary
- Liaise with children's social workers where they need access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments
- Make any referrals to MASH if needed.

## **5. Working with other agencies**

We will continue to work with children's social care, and with virtual school heads for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

We will continue to update this addendum where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- Our local safeguarding partners
- The local authority about children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need

The following guidance is currently in place:

## **6. Monitoring attendance**

As most children will not be attending school during this period of school closure, we will not be completing our usual attendance registers or following our usual procedures to follow up on non-attendance.

The exception to this is where any child we expect to attend school during the closure doesn't attend, or stops attending. In these cases we will:

- Follow up on their absence with their parents or carers, by phone
- Notify their social worker, where they have one

We are using the Department for Education's daily online attendance form to keep an accurate record of who is attending school.

We will make arrangements with parents and carers to make sure we have up-to-date emergency contact details, and additional contact details where possible.

## **7. Peer-on-peer abuse**

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education when managing reports and supporting victims of peer-on-peer abuse.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have and contact the DSL immediately.

## **8. Concerns about a staff member or volunteer**

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately.

Staff must be aware that the Code of Conduct is still in place and all staff are to maintain the highest standards of professionalism, especially during online any contact.

We will continue to refer adults who have harmed or pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

We will continue to refer potential cases of teacher misconduct to the Teaching Regulation Agency. We will do this using the email address [Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk) for the duration of the COVID-19 period, in line with government guidance.

## **9. Support for children who aren't 'vulnerable' but where we have concerns**

We have the option to offer places in school to children who don't meet the Department for Education's definition of 'vulnerable', but who we have safeguarding concerns about. We will work with parents/carers to do this, for example, children who have previously had a social worker, or who haven't met the threshold for a referral but where staff have raised concerns.

If these children will not be attending school, we will put a contact plan in place, as explained in section 10.1 below.

## **10. Safeguarding for children not attending school**

### **10.1 Contact**

We have contact plans for children with a social worker and children who we have safeguarding concerns about, for circumstances where:

- They won't be attending school (for example where the school, parent/carer and social worker, if relevant, have decided together that this wouldn't be in the child's best interests); or
- They would usually attend but have to self-isolate

We will contact these children twice weekly and will inform the allocated social worker of the contact and highlight any concerns.

If we can't make contact, we will contact children's social care.

### **10.2 Safeguarding all children**

Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time potentially puts all children at greater risk.

Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on concerns immediately. In particular, children are likely to be spending more time online (see section 11 below).

## **11. Online safety**

### **11.1 In school**

We will continue to have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place in school. Camden IT will be informed of any issues relating to this that will need resolving.

The CLC will also be a source of advice relating to any online platforms used.

### **11.2 Outside school**

Where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow our existing code of conduct/IT acceptable use policy.

Staff will only use agreed platforms for remote learning and must follow the agreed procedures for online learning.

Staff will continue to be alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm online, and act on any concerns immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out in section 3 of this addendum.

We will make sure children know how to report any concerns they have back to our school, and signpost them to other sources of support too.

### **11.3 Working with parents and carers**

We will make sure parents and carers:

- › Are aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of staying safe online
- › Know what our school is asking children to do online, including what sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school
- › Are aware that they should only use reputable online companies or tutors if they wish to supplement the remote teaching and resources our school provides
- › Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online
- › We will continue to provide advice and guidance to parents on keeping their children safe online via the school newsletter.

## **12. Mental health**

Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils.

We will also signpost all pupils, parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

## **13. Staff recruitment, training and induction**

### **13.1 Recruiting new staff and volunteers**

We continue to recognise the importance of robust safer recruitment procedures, so that adults and volunteers who work in our school are safe to work with children.

We will continue to follow our safer recruitment procedures, and part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

In urgent cases, when validating proof of identity documents to apply for a DBS check, we will initially accept verification of scanned documents via online video link, rather than being in physical possession of the original documents. This approach is in line with revised guidance from the DBS.

New staff must still present the original documents when they first attend work at our school.

We will continue to do our usual checks on new volunteers, and do risk assessments to decide whether volunteers who aren't in regulated activity should have an enhanced DBS check, in accordance with paragraphs 167-172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

### **13.2 Staff 'on loan' from other schools**

We will assess the risks of staff 'on loan' working in our school, and seek assurance from the 'loaning' school that staff have had the appropriate checks.

We will also use the DBS Update Service, where these staff have signed up to it, to check for any new information.

### **13.3 Safeguarding induction and training**

We will make sure staff and volunteers are aware of changes to our procedures and local arrangements.

New staff and volunteers will continue to receive:

- A safeguarding induction
- A copy of our children protection policy (and this addendum)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education part 1

We will decide on a case-by-case basis what level of safeguarding induction staff 'on loan' need. In most cases, this will be:

- A copy of our child protection policy and this addendum
- Confirmation of local processes
- Confirmation of DSL arrangements

### **13.4 Keeping records of who's on site**

We will keep a record of which staff and volunteers are on site each day, and that appropriate checks have been carried out for them.

We will continue to keep our single central record up to date.

We will use the single central record to log:

- Everyone working or volunteering in our school each day, including staff 'on loan'
- Details of any risk assessments carried out on staff and volunteers on loan from elsewhere

## **14. Children attending other settings**

Where children are temporarily required to attend another setting, we will make sure the receiving school is provided with any relevant welfare and child protection information.

Wherever possible, our DSL (or deputy) and/or special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) will share, as applicable:

- The reason(s) why the child is considered vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them
- The child's EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or personal education plan
- Details of the child's social worker
- Details of the virtual school head

Where the DSL, deputy or SENCO can't share this information, the senior leader(s) identified in section 4 will do this.



We will share this information before the child arrives as far as is possible, and otherwise as soon as possible afterwards.

## **15. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the 3 local safeguarding partners, the LA or DfE is updated, and as a minimum every 3-4 weeks by Grant Jacobson.

## **16. Links with other policies**

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Child protection policy
- Staff code of conduct
- IT acceptable use policy
- Health and safety policy
- Online safety policy