COVID

Safeguarding Response for Classes/Bubbles Closing in School for Isolation

In the event of any partial school closure, school will ensure a DSL will be on the school site every day. Normal safeguarding procedures will continue in line with school policy for children at home and at school.

In the event of a whole school closure, or where there cannot be a DSL on site, we will keep all school staff and volunteers informed as to who the DSL on call is.

The DSL will :

- Identify the most vulnerable children in school/at home and make regular contact including checking attendance of online learning sessions and well-being.
- Update and manage access to child protection files, where necessary and liaise with children's social workers where they need access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments.
- Working with other agencies - We will continue to work with children's social care, with virtual school heads for looked-after and previously looked-after children, and with any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners, to help keep children safe.

We will continue to update this addendum where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from our 3 local safeguarding partners.

Attendance

Normal procedures will continue for pupils who are able to attend onsite provision. We will follow guidance from the Department for Education on how to record attendance (including for pupils learning remotely) and what data to submit.

Children isolating – We will take online registers for all those children who are accessing remote learning. Should a child not attend remote learning sessions we will make contact parents in a timely fashion to establish the reason for non-attendance.

If the child is ill, then this will be recorded in the register and notes made to evidence the reason for absence. There is an expectation that parents contact school following normal absence procedures during any period of isolation.

Should no contact be made, then school will conduct a door-step visit to check on the well-being of pupils. If after a home visit we can still not establish contact, school will initiate safeguarding procedures in line with the school safeguarding policy and notify the social worker/ Early Help worker, where they have one.

Support for access to remote learning

Should access to technology be the reason for non-attendance - school will support by providing routers or laptops which will be made available for collection or delivered to the home address. School has provided guidance via video clip to support pupils with accessing online learning.

Reporting concerns

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education when managing reports and supporting support pupils who have raised safeguarding concerns. Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately whether the children attending school or accessing learning from home.

Concerns about a staff member, supply teacher 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 – whether those concerns are about staff/supply teachers/volunteers working on site or remotely.

Contact plans for vulnerable pupils

The DSL will work closely with external agencies to establish contact plans for children with a social worker, and other children who we have safeguarding concerns about, including those supported by Early Help or School Support. This will include:

- How often the school will make contact – which will be a minimum of once a week
- Which staff member(s) will make contact – as far as possible, this will be staff who know the family well
- How staff will make contact – this will be over the phone, doorstep visits, or a combination of both

 If we can't make contact, we will contact social services for advice.

Safeguarding all children

 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. They will act on concerns immediately in line with the procedures set out in the child protection policy and COVID Safeguarding Addendum.

Children at home

The school will maintain contact with children who are at home. Staff will contact children directly to at home to help identify any concerns on a daily basis, through their remote teaching live lessons. Staff have also trained pupils to use their messenger systems on Google Classrooms as a vehicle for pupils to raise any concerns directly to their teacher who will then follow the school reporting systems. Where there is a need to make telephone contact , during a period or remote teaching/isolation, staff will use personal phones but they will withhold their personal number.

Staff and volunteers will look out for signs like:

- Not completing assigned work or logging on to school systems
- No contact from children or families
- Seeming more withdrawn during any well-being check-ins.

Where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow our existing Code of Conduct and Internet Safety Policy. Staff will ensure that there are two school staff members present during any live remote teaching session. 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 the school agreed procedures.

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, where relevant, 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 teaching and resources our school provides
- Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online

Mental health

Pupil, parent or carers will be signposted to organisations to contact if there are concerns about mental health and wellbeing. Regular information is sent out to parents highlighting help available to support Mental Health and Well-being. Included in the support to aid mental health, food bank vouchers are offered to those in most need. 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. Staff and volunteers will be alert to mental health concerns in children who are at home, and act on these immediately, following our usual reporting.

FSM

The school will follow Government guidelines to support the children who are usually in receipt of free school meals. Currently families are provided with a food parcel during any period of isolation.

Reporting a concern

We actively promote parents to raise concerns and as such parents will have access to a DSL through making contact directly with the school or in the event of a whole school closure providing parents with an email contact and phone number.

Parents can also make their own referrals to if they have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty by contacting the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) immediately by calling