INTERIM SAFEGUARDING ANNEX COVID-19

Table of Contents

The enforced closure of schools due to Covid-19 means that additional interim Safeguarding measures are required to ensure the continued Safeguarding and monitoring of children in our care, regardless of the school they normally attend.

The statutory guidance in KCSIE 2019 and the School's current Safeguarding Policy remain in place. At all times the best interest of the child continues to come first.

The government guidance can be found at:

http://briefing.safeguardinginschools.co.uk/lt.php?s=5b413e09116b964f2da6da7dc7ce7d0c&i=105A139A5A1265

The following actions and procedures have been put into place.

ALL STAFF WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONFIRM THAT THEY HAVE READ THIS INFORMATION.

Monitoring and Raising Concerns

Staff have been alerted to follow the normal referral process and inform the DSL if they have any concerns regarding the welfare of a child. This concern may be raised during any online communication or by persistent absence and/or failure to complete work, or by the content of that work. As ever, it is vital that these concerns are passed on to the DSL as a matter of urgency.

If a member of staff has concerns about the conduct of another member of staff the whistleblowing procedure should still be followed and the Headmistress informed.

A DSL and/or Deputy DSL is available at all times by mobile contact and/or school email depending on urgency.

Jo Kingston 07753 330274

Mairead Carney 07894 081914

Heidi Snaith 07793 749654

Rebecca Rose 07950 932850

The School identified its vulnerable children ahead of the school closures. All these children were given a key member of staff who would make regular contact with them and/or their family as appropriate.

Families of children/the child (depending on the age) who are on an open plan or considered vulnerable were risk assessed to consider if they should attend school or be given the option to attend as appropriate. Regular contact is made with these families and/or children by designated members of staff.

Vulnerable children include:

- Children who have a social worker
- Children with a Children in Need plan (CIN)
- Children on Child protections plans (CP)
- Looked after Children
- Young Carers
- Disabled Children
- Children with an EHCP.

Mrs Kingston was given remote access to all safeguarding files. Contact details for Care Workers and Social Workers of higher risk children are readily available on Pupil Front Sheets within these files. Mrs Kingston will keep these files up to date as staff pass on information.

If a child has a Social Worker, the appropriate DSL will liaise with the Social Worker to determine if it is in the child's best interest to attend school. The risk of social contact will be need to be balanced with the risks of not attending school.

BSCP have the personal contact details of all the DSL.

DSL will be made aware of any changes in contact details of LADO or for referrals by BSCP.

If required, the DSL and SENCO will transfer the information to the appropriate setting regarding children with EHCP, CIN plan, CPP including details of Social Workers, along with the virtual school head for LAC and PEP.

Schools sending their children to a host school must provide an emergency contact member of staff and details of their DSL. The DSL and/or SENCO of the receiving school must have access to any documents regarding EHCP, CIN plan, CPP including details of Social Workers, along with the virtual school head for LAC and PEP. Additionally, any medical information including allergies, and emergency contact details must be shared.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers and attend multi agency meetings (remotely) as required.

For children attending school, school will follow the guidance published by PHE. If a parents or carer has concerns regarding their child contracting Covid-19 through attendance at school, the school will provide support to the family, explaining the procedures and protection that has been put in place, and discuss with the child's social worker if appropriate.

Attendance

Schools are not required to complete their usual daily attendance registers.

A daily attendance record is kept for children of Key Workers, and any vulnerable children (with or without Social Workers), and those with EHCP that are present in school.

The School will follow up on any child that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Notifying the social worker if appropriate. Additionally, the School will follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their children and the children subsequently do not attend.

A daily attendance form is submitted to the DfE either by Mrs Kingston or Mrs Dimmock, if children are in attendance.

Training and Recruitment

If schools join together to provide childcare supervision the host school is responsible for safer recruitment, conduct of staff, risk assessment and referral of concerns.

If new staff are appointed, the normal policies for safer recruitment and staff induction remain in place.

In response to Covod-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

An enhanced DBS can be transferred from another school if there is no more than 3 months break in service.

Under no circumstances should a volunteer who has not been checked and vetted (as detailed in paragraphs 167-172 of KCSIE) be allowed to work in regulated activity, including remote working.

Any staff or volunteers that are relocated from other schools or settings to assist in providing care for Key Worker and vulnerable children will be judged on a case by case basis the level of Safeguarding induction required. Induction training will be completed by the DSL. As a minimum they should be provided with the host schools CP policy, KCSIE 2019 part 1 and annexe A, details of the DSL and local procedures, and confirm that they have read these. A letter of reassurance will be obtained from the school or setting they normally work at.

Host schools must record the details of who is on site and which school they are from if they are not their own staff.

DSL should try to keep their training up to date using online courses if possible. However, if their training falls out of date this does not prevent them from continuing in the role. They will keep up to date with information , both at a local and national level, as a result of Covid-19, that will impact the welfare of children and ensure relevant information is shared with staff, including those who may be carrying out temporary duties.

Mental Health and Well-Being

School will provide appropriate support to any staff, students or parents who are struggling with remote working and social distancing, referring to other agencies if required.

Well-being resources and helplines have been communicated to parents and students via Firefly and student briefings in Senior House.

Students have regular contact with their Form Tutor via email and live tutor times using Microsoft Teams.

Students are encouraged to try and maintain a balance of work, physical exercise and to look after their own well-being through PSHCE and PE activities. Students are encouraged to raise concerns if they are concerned about one of their peers.

The expectations and problems surrounding remote working are monitored through student, staff and parent surveys.

Parents and students can readily contact staff through the School email system (Microsoft Outlook) if they have any concern.

Any child that would normally have access to school counselling support has been offered the chance to continue with that remotely. If the child is still attending school the school counsellor will continue to meet them at school whilst observing the rules of social distancing.

Communications with parents and students are carefully considered to try and maintain a balance between encouraging routine and participation in the school curriculum, alongside the need to look after mental and physical well-being, and time away from screens.

It is acknowledged that anxiety could increase over time, particularly as families possibly suffer bereavement, and economic stresses. The appropriate pastoral staff and SLT will provide support as they are able.

Further advice on support can be found on schoolsweb at https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/covid-19-corona-virus-latest-advice/covid-19-mental-health-and-well-being/

The Headmistress will ensure that appropriate staff to student ratios are maintained for any children that are on site. St Mary's School will refer to the government guidance for education settings on how to implement social distancing and handwashing to limit the spread of Covid-19 for staff and children that are on site, and parents when they drop off or collect their children.

Online Safety

Parents have been reminded of online safety advice, and reporting tools if they have concerns via the e-safety briefing. Students are reminded via the daily student briefing in Senior House, as well as the expectations for live teaching sessions.

Any live teaching will be in line with the remote teaching in learning policy, in addition to the normal staff code of conduct and acceptable use policy.

Staff will not have contact with students via social media other than through the platforms agreed by the school.

Staff have been reminded not to give out the personal details of any student or staff member.

Staff have been reminded to ensure that the devices that are used in their own homes are password protected and that personal details of students and staff, or information regarding them cannot be accessed or viewed by other members of the household, nor should they be storing information on their own personal device.

All platforms used by the School have been carefully considered with respect to their privacy, data protection/GDPR protocols and with the Safeguarding of children being at the fore. Parents have been informed of the programmes and sites that the School have agreed to use for remote teaching. In addition, parents have been asked to opt in to of any aspect of the use of technology being used

to assist the remote teaching and learning of their children . It is likely that students from Reception to Year 4 will need to have a parent close by to assist with this – this also provides an additional layer of Safeguarding protection for very young children.

The responsibility to check other companies and online tutors that are not used by the School lies with parents.

Peer on Peer Abuse

We recognise that the more frequent access to online devices has the potential to lead to online peer on peer abuse, including sexting, grooming, distribution of youth involved sexualised content and harassment. Where the school receives a report of peer on peer abuse it will be addressed promptly in line with KCSIE 2019 part 5 and the Child Protection policy.

The school will listen and work with the child, parents/carers and multi-agency partners, including a report to the police, if required, to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded, and appropriate referrals made.