

Addendum to Safeguarding Policy – January 2021

During these challenging times the safeguarding of all students at our school – whether they are currently at home or in attendance on site at 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 using the school's reporting protocols
- 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.

Attendance

During the period of lockdown, school will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers. All other children will receive remote education. Pupils who are self-isolating should not attend school. Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils are also advised not attend school.

Recording attendance

All pupils who are not eligible to be in school should be marked as Code X. They are not attending as they are following public health advice.

Identified vulnerable children who are expected to attend school full-time, should not be marked as code X. School will continue to record their attendance in the register and this will be marked with the appropriate 'pupils in attendance' codes.

School will follow up on the absences of the pupils who are expected to be in school but where a parent/carer wishes for their child to be absent, school will authorise the absence during this national lockdown period. Absence will not be penalised. The school will grant leave of absence, given the exceptional circumstances. This will be recorded as code C (leave of absence authorised by the school) unless another authorised absence code is more applicable in line with DFE guidelines.

If a parent/carer of a vulnerable child wishes their child to be absent, the parent/carer should let the school know. School will speak to parents and carers, and social workers (where applicable) to explore the reasons for this and any concerns raised.

Specific user defined groups / registers have been set up to monitor the daily attendance of all vulnerable students that are expected to attend school.

When a vulnerable child is asked to self-isolate, school will notify their social worker (if they have one) and the safeguarding teams and /or member of SLT will still continue to support the vulnerable child and their families.

Safeguarding

Welfare checking

School has implemented systems to keep in contact with pupils who have been identified as vulnerable and offer pastoral, wellbeing support, and check that they are able to access education support.

Vulnerable group 1 (Children with a Social worker)

Weekly phone calls are made by an allocated member of the Safeguarding team. All conversations are logged on CPOMS. The Safeguarding Team are to contact the pupil's social worker if they are unable to contact the child/ family. The Safeguarding team will continue to work together with relevant parties to explore reasons for absence and encourage the child or young person to attend school, discussing their concerns and considering the child's circumstances and their best interests. Welfare monitoring visits may be necessary where appropriate.

Vulnerable group 2 (Children with EHCP/ SEND)

Weekly phone calls are made by the Assistant Headteacher/SENCO, or the Assistant SENCO. All conversations are logged on a 'live' central marksheet that is accessible by the above and the Deputy and Assistant Headteacher for Student Wellbeing. The Assistant Headteacher/SENCO will continue to work with families any relevant outside agencies that support the child and will explore reasons for absence and encourage the child or young person to attend school, discussing their concerns and considering the child's circumstances and their best interests. Welfare monitoring visits may be necessary where appropriate.

'Otherwise' Vulnerable 3 (Working with outside agencies /school discretion)

Weekly phone calls are made by a member of the Safeguarding team. Conversations are logged on CPOMS. The Safeguarding team will continue to work together with relevant parties to explore reasons for absence and encourage the child or young person to attend school, discussing their concerns and considering the child's circumstances and their best interests. Welfare monitoring visits may necessary where appropriate.

The school will work collaboratively with other schools and education providers and other local partners to maximise the opportunities for face-face provision for vulnerable children.

Welfare drop ins

Members of the pastoral teams for each year group will hold welfare drop ins for any student on TEAMS where students can interact with a member of the year team. This will be done through the chat facility on TEAMS and subsequent follow up phone contact where required. The traffic will be monitored by use of the "lobby" feature on TEAMS.

Remote Learning

As far as possible, we will attempt to replicate the timetable that students follow through the course of the normal school day. Staff will deliver virtual, real time lessons through Microsoft TEAMS.

Vulnerable pupils who are in school will also access their lessons through teams. There may be personalised learning packages developed for children with EHCP/SEND for them to engage fully with their learning.

The school has daily procedures in place to check the engagement of all students (including vulnerable) to check that they are able to access remote education. Information is shared with the safeguarding team and SLT if necessary. Daily absence calls are made to student who do not engage in their online lessons.

When using Microsoft Teams all chats will be retained and staff and students will not be able to delete the content.

If there are any concerns regarding Safeguarding, these should be recorded in the usual way through CPOMS, unless in the case of an IT failure or of particular urgency, when these should be reported directly to the DSL/Child Protection team.