

Child protection and Safeguarding policy addendum updated 28.5.20

Safeguarding guidance for schools and colleges

Schools and colleges will have an effective child protection policy in place reflecting business as usual. It is likely that the policy will not accurately reflect new arrangements in response to COVID-19. It is important schools and colleges (led by a DSL or deputy, wherever possible) review and revise their child protection policy and keep it under review as circumstances continue to evolve. In some cases, a COVID-19 annex/addendum that summaries any key COVID-19 related changes might be more effective than re-writing and re-issuing the whole policy. Amongst other things the revised child protection policy should reflect:

Updated advice received from the local safeguarding partners

- Cascaded to relevant staff via email by DSL

Updated advice received from local authorities regarding 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

- Cascaded to appropriate staff in DSL and SEN teams.
- Vulnerable children with social workers, or EHCPs should continue to attend school and this is agreed and encouraged when appropriate to manage risk.

What staff and volunteers should do if they have any concerns about a child

- Follow the school procedures in terms of raising concerns via DSL/ HT

The continued importance of all staff and volunteers acting and acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns

DSL (and deputy) arrangements

- DSL / Deputy DSL or SLT (with DSL training) rota in place each day or in case of absence/illness DSL. Contactable by phone 07790 923334 .
- If DSL /Deputy DSL was absent then HT / SLT members would be point of contact for immediate concerns if DSL team not available.
- Normal procedure followed is a referral to MASH and/or Police as required for 'significant' risk/harm concerns.
- All staff have been reminded about the DSL coverage in school each day.
- All safeguarding/child protection files are up to date, including actions and outcomes

The continued importance for school and college staff to work with and support children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children

- Information shared where relevant with appropriate staff e.g DT LAC.
- High levels of contact with carers and Social workers of LAC.

Peer on peer abuse - given the very different circumstances schools and colleges are operating in a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims

- Usual procedures to be followed – referral via My concern – contact DSL team as above

What staff and volunteers should do if they have concerns about a staff member or volunteer who may pose a safeguarding risk to children

- Refer as per 'whistle blower' procedure and processes from Generalist training completed recently (Jan 2020).
- Where new concerns about individual students are identified they are referred via the My concern/DSL contact school procedure. This will be the same for students returning to school during phased return.

Arrangements to support children the school or college are concerned about who do not meet the 'vulnerable' definition

- All children who we are concerned about have been RAG rated and a lead adult is making contact home. The rating reflects the frequency of the contact.
- All children beyond those who meet the 'vulnerable' criteria have been considered and allocated a lead adult for contact.
- School in contact with other professionals as required.

What arrangements are in place to keep children not physically attending the school or college safe, especially online and how concerns about these children should be progressed

- Guidance letter sent to all families by DSL 27.3.20 including online safety and multi-agency support

It is important that all staff and volunteers are aware of the new policy and are kept up to date as it is revised. The revised policy should continue to be made available publicly.

- Policy update to be shared with staff.
- Safeguarding information is shared as appropriate with staff, students and parents.

Risk assessments are in place and link together Safeguarding and Health and Safety relating to phased return of pupils..

- Risk assessment has been shared with all staff.

Safer recruitment

- There is no need to redo the DBS for staff away from school for over three months.

Take into consideration that for many children their mental health may have been impacted

- The school is conducting a Mental Health Survey (June 2020) to establish the impact of the lockdown and well-being to support with planning for support. School is sharing mental health newsletters from Oxford Health Mental Health support team.

Schools should continue to do all they 'reasonably' can to ensure children at home are safe online

- School is working with other agencies and signposting appropriate support for online concerns.

Link to latest government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>