Covid-19 Safeguarding Addendum Policy

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Covid-19 Safeguarding Addendum for AIGHS Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

As our school has remained open for vulnerable children and children of keyworkers during the current Covid-19 crisis, we are now moving forward to the wider opening of our school and therefore we are taking additional steps to safeguard our pupils, staff and parents. To do this, we are acting in accordance with all NHS and Public Health England advice, as well as the Department for Education guidance for schools.

This coronavirus addendum summaries any key coronavirus related changes to policies and processes which must be followed together with our school's Wider Opening Plan and our Recovery Plan and Risk Assessment.

Staff and pupils **must** stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others.

Reporting of Safeguarding Concerns

All staff should be aware that some children may have been at increased risk whilst away from school for such a long period of time. This will necessitate increased awareness and therefore all staff must show increased vigilance once children return to school and see staff in person. This is of continued importance and all staff must act immediately upon any safeguarding concerns and report them following the school's safeguarding policy and protocol.

All safeguarding concerns will continue to be reported in the usual way as set out in our Safeguarding Policy.

Our school's approach ensures that the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a deputy is always on site while the school is open. The following staff are trained as Level 2 Safeguarding Staff:

Zahida Satia   Designated Safeguarding Lead

Hifza Yaqoob   Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Monitoring Attendance

It is expected that all vulnerable children attend school where it is appropriate for them (unless there are shielding concerns for the child or their household or are clinically vulnerable).

A summary of attendance expectations across the different groups of vulnerable children is as follows:

Children who have a social worker, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance

protecting people defined on medical grounds as clinically extremely vulnerable

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protectingextremely-vulerable-persons-from-covid-19

Children who are deemed otherwise vulnerable at the school or local authority discretion

Guidance on vulnerable children and young people is contained in:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-onvulnerable-children-and-young-people

Our school will continue to notify social workers where children with a social worker do not attend school. We will continue to follow up with any parent/carer whose child has been expected to attend and does not. We will also take the opportunity to confirm with parents/carers that the emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

Parents know their children best and our school encourages our parents to liaise with staff on at least a weekly basis, sharing information on their child's health and well-being. Parents are encouraged to contact school should they have any concerns on subjects such as structure or routine, together with requests for support such as access to the wider opening of school.

Attendance of pupils will continue to be monitored; this is particularly important in respect of vulnerable children. Our school will resume taking the attendance register from 1 June 2020 and will continue to complete the online Educational Setting Status form which gives the Department for Education daily updates on how many children and staff are attending.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19attendance-recording-for-educational-setting

Parents and carers will not be penalised if their child does not attend school.

Identification of Vulnerable Children

Vulnerable children for the purposes of continued attendance during the coronavirus outbreak are those across all year groups who:

Are assessed as being in need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or are a looked-after child

Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and it is determined following a risk assessment that their needs can be safely or more safely met in the educational environment

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-riskassessment-guidance-coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance

Have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers, local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued attendance. This might include children on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers and others at the provider and local authority's discretion.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-onvulnerable-children-and-young-people

Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

All schools will have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. In exceptional circumstances this may not be possible, for example working from home, and where this is the case we will make contact with a trained DSL or deputy from our school via phone or online video. Where the trained DSL or deputy is not on site, in addition to making contact via phone or online video, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This might include updating and managing access to child protection files, liaising with the offsite DSL or deputy, and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at school.

In cases where the DSL and deputy are expected to be off-site all staff will be advised by the Headteacher of who to contact in case of safeguarding matters, together with the contact details.

The DSL or deputy will provide support to all teachers and support staff to ensure that contact is maintained with children (their families) who are not yet returning to school. Where possible staff should try and speak directly to help identify any concerns. Staff are encouraged to make calls from school, where possible, using school phones or devices. Where staff use personal mobile phones to make calls, they should withhold their personal number.

A DSL or deputy may find it difficult to access refresher training throughout the period of time necessitating coronavirus measures and therefore their training stands until it is practically possible to access refresher training, however the DSL and deputy are still responsible for reasonable keeping up to date with safeguarding developments via safeguarding partners, newsletters and professional advice groups.

Each school will face unique challenges as they welcome back more children. The DSL or deputy should consider the challenges in a child protection context and reflect them in policies and procedures where relevant.

The DSL or deputy should lead on ensuring that schools are updated on any relevant safeguarding and welfare information. Systems will be put into place to ensure that parents and carers are able to share any changes in pupil's welfare, health and well- being upon their return to school.

The DSL will continue to work with and support children's social workers, the local authority virtual school head for looked-after and previously looked-after children and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners.

Advice for attending safeguarding meetings and local working arrangements

Our school is following the advice published by Blackburn and Darwen Borough Council covering attendance at statutory meetings and visits to children's homes. Where possible audio/video conferencing is used instead of face to face attendance at meetings and visits to pupil's homes are actively discouraged. Where safeguarding concerns exist for new or existing cases these will be discussed with the Local Authority.

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements in place children could be at greater risk of abuse from staff or volunteers. We remind all staff to maintain the view that 'it could happen here' and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to the Headteacher or in the case of a concern about the Headteacher, the Chair of Governors.

The LADO process remains unchanged, with the duty upon the
Headteacher or Chair of Governors to report any allegations within 24 hours.

Staff training and safeguarding induction

All existing staff will have already had safeguarding training and induction together with having read and understood Part 1 and Appendix A Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019. Staff will be encouraged to re-read these together with the school's safeguarding policy and any Addendum's, prior to pupil's wider return to school.

All new staff and/or volunteers must undergo safeguarding training and induction together with reading Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 Part 1 and Appendix A, prior to commencement of working with children in school.

Mental Health

Negative experiences and distressing life events such as the current coronavirus circumstances can affect the mental health of children and their parents. Staff should ensure that appropriate support is put in place for any children or families exhibiting any signs of distress. All staff who are working with children who are continuing to work from home will also note any signs of increased distress, including when setting expectations of children's' work, making arrangements for mental health support as and when necessary.

On-line safety

As more and more children return to school it will be important that schools continue to provide a safe online environment for those who remain at home. Schools will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children when they are online using the school 's systems. All staff who interact with children, including online, will continue to look out for signs that a child may be at risk. Any concerns should be dealt with in accordance with the child protection policy through the DSL and where appropriate referrals should continue to be made to children's social care and as required the police. Staff will also be in regular contact with parents and carers. Those communications should continue to be used to reinforce the importance of children being safe online together with available support mechanisms, should problems be encountered.

Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

*   Thinkuknow provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
*   Parent info is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations

- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Internet Matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC and O2, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services

Government has also provided:

- [support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online harms](#), includes advice about specific harms such as online child sexual abuse, sexting, and cyberbullying
- [support to stay safe online](#) includes security and privacy settings, blocking unsuitable content, and parental controls

Action to be taken if someone develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) on the school site

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or high temperature in an education setting they should be sent home and advised to follow the staying at home guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-homeguidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possiblecoronavirus-covid-19-infection

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible and if appropriate, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door. Our staff are mindful of individual children's needs – for example it would not be appropriate for younger children or children with additional medical needs to be left alone without supervision. Ideally, a window should be open for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

In an emergency the school team will call 999, if the patient is seriously ill, injured or there is risk to life. Parents will be advised not to visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or hospital with their child.

If a member of staff has helped someone who has been taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.

In most cases, closure of educational settings will not be needed but this will be a local decision based on various factors such as establishment size and risk of further spread. Advice will be sought from the Local Authority and Public Health England before any decision to close is taken.

If there is an urgent public health action to take, the educational setting will be contacted by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team who will undertake a risk assessment and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken, PHE will rarely advise a school to close but this may be necessary if there are so many staff being isolated that the school has operational issues. The local authority will support school to make this assessment. PHE will work with the Headteacher or Management Team, and the Local Authority Public Health team, to advise on the management of children, pupils or staff.

Limiting spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in school

The school is actively promoting the NHS and Public Health England advice to limit the spread of Covid-19 in the school. Action taken includes:

- Reminding everyone on the school site of the public health advice
- Reminding staff and families to wash their hands for 20 seconds more frequently than normal – these messages are promoted in all sessions/lessons
- Promoting social distancing advice
- Having a cycle of regular cleaning in the school