

COVID19 – Addendum to Child Protection and Safeguarding policy

Durrington High School

April 2020

Context:

From 20th March 2020, on Government advice, parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, with schools remaining open only for those children of keyworkers critical to the COVID-19 response.

In addition, schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children deemed as vulnerable - subject to social care involvement and/or Children Looked After (CLA).

Interim guidance to schools was published on 27.03.2020 and can be read here:

<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>

This addendum of the Durrington High Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

Safeguarding staffing (within and outside of school)

We operate a central safeguarding email service (which will reach all DSLs):

safeguarding@durring.com

Role	Name	Contact	Email
Director of Safeguarding and Wellbeing	Lindsey Tunbridge-Adams	01903 244957/ 07932 089176	ltunbridge@durring.com
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Claire Hatchard	01903 244957/ 07525 119859	chatchard@durring.com
Head of School/ Designated Safeguarding Lead	Chris Woodcock	01903 244957	cwoodcock@durring.com
Designated Safeguarding Lead trained	Sarah Dedman (AHT)	01903 244957	sdedman1@durring.com

Designated Safeguarding Lead/PREVENT Lead	John Fuller (DHT)	01903 244957/ 07539 606098	jfuller@durring.com
Safeguarding Governor	Jane Squires		jsquires@durring.com

The following external services/agencies are also able to offer support/advice in relation to safeguarding matters

MASH	01403 229900	0330 222 6664 (Out of of hours)	MASH@westsussex.gov.uk
LADO (Jenny Coke)	Use MASH for enquiries	0330 222 6450 (9am -5pm)	LADO@westsussex.gov.uk
Safeguarding in Education Team	Jez Prior Ali Hannant	0330 222 4030	safeguarding.education@westsussex.gov.uk

Identification of children who could be more vulnerable in the current circumstances

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with Education, Health and Care (EHCP's).

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority (CLA). A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Those with an EHCP will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHCP's can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability. Senior leaders, particularly the Director of Safeguarding and primary DSL will have a detailed knowledge of who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

It is acknowledged that risk assessment is not a static process and those children deemed as vulnerable will change according to individual circumstance.

How we will continue to work with the most vulnerable students

Durrington High School will continue to work closely with, and support, children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

The school's:

Designated teacher for CLA is Kate Blight (kblight@durring.com)

The lead for CLA is Lindsey Tunbridge-Adams. (ltunbridge@durring.com)

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will be offered a placement within an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them or others at risk.

In circumstances where a parent chooses not to send their child into educational provision at school, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Durrington High School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID-19, Durrington High School and/or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England. Durrington High School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

Durrington High and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether Children in Need should be attending school. Staff will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Durrington High School will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

If a family cannot be contacted by phone, the viability of a home visit will be considered in order to check the welfare of the family.

To support the above, Durrington High School will, when communicating with parents/carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available. In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Durrington High School will notify their social worker.

Staff resilience – School Safeguarding Team

Durrington High School has a Director of Safeguarding and Wellbeing, a Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead and three additional DSLs as support as detailed above.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 (Page 19, para 65) states;

'During term time, the designated safeguarding lead and/or a deputy should always be available (during school or college hours) for staff in the school or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns. It is a matter for individual schools and colleges and the designated safeguarding lead to arrange adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of hours/out of term activities.'

During this period our school will continue to follow all current DfE guidance and practice.

Please note this means the DSL may be available for contact on the phone / video call and do not need to be physically in school. Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, a senior leader will assume responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site and can seek advice from another DMAT DSL.

The role of a senior leader coordinating safeguarding on site might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, CPOMS and 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 the site. Other members of SLT who are not DSLs will receive contingency skills training to develop an awareness of the role through COVID-19. This is **in addition** to the DSLs being available at all times.

The DSLs will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, including conferences and strategy discussions, which can be done remotely. The on-site DSL can be found on the staffing schedule shared with all staff on a daily basis.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should contact the DSL scheduled to be on site in the first instance and log the concern via CPOMS, which can be done remotely. If this DSL is unavailable, another DSL should be contacted from the list.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home, they should email the Director of Safeguarding, Lead DSL or Head of School and the Trust Safeguarding Manager using the child's initials only. This will ensure that the concern is received. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the Director of Safeguarding or Head of School. If there is a requirement to make a notification to either of these staff members away from school, this should be done verbally through telephone contact and followed up with an email.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Mr Brian Marsh via ppotter@durring.com

The Multi-Academy Trust will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The Director of Safeguarding should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Durrington High School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

For movement within the Trust, schools should seek assurance from the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) HR Manager that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Durrington High School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KC

In response to COVID-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.

If Durrington High School utilises volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Durrington High School will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

Durrington High School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral'.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals will be made by the Trust and should be made by emailing Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge and scale of the current national emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Durrington High School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.



Online safety in schools and colleges

The Laurels Primary will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Children and online safety away from school and college

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs that a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection Policy and where appropriate, referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the Police.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the MAT code of conduct.

Durrington High School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where live-streams are involved:

- No 1:1 live stream classrooms/settings; groups only
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms;
- The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held. (This information should be collected automatically in Google Classroom).

Supporting children not in school

Durrington High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and young people.

Where a DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded, and a record of contact should be made on CPOMS.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded. Durrington High School and its DSL's will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Durrington High School recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and that the current circumstances are likely to affect the mental health of pupils and

their parents/carers. Teacher staff at Durrington High School will need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Students can request wellbeing support in the safeguarding classroom (Google wellbeing pages) online and have been directed how to do so and who to contact.

Supporting children in school

Durrington High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all of its students. Durrington High School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Head of School will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety and support.

Durrington High School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19.

Durrington High School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

Where Durrington High School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as a Designated Safeguarding Lead or First Aiders, these will be discussed them immediately with members of the senior leadership team (SLT).

Peer on Peer Abuse

Durrington High School recognises that during the period of school closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

Advice for Governing Bodies

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-governance-update/school-governance-update-march-2020>

Boards have been asked to prioritise providing support to their school leaders and staff where needed, to allow them to get on with operational matters. School leaders should stay in touch with the governing board in a proportionate way, including providing information on the welfare of staff and pupils, so that they can retain a strategic overview of the situation and the school.

Support from the Local Authority

The WSCC Safeguarding in Education Team will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively.

The Safeguarding in Education (SiE) team will also provide guidance and resources as appropriate to support schools with all areas of safeguarding.

Phone - 0330 222 4030

Email - safeguarding.education@westsussex.gov.uk

<https://secure2.sla-online.co.uk/v3/Resources/Page/13966>

All updates to schools are sent via the Director of Education.

<http://schools.westsussex.gov.uk>

The safeguarding bulletins and guidance are all embedded within the links above, so it is important that staff read each entire document as they expand in a lot more detail in many of the areas identified below.