

Schools Safeguarding Service Briefing – Interim Safeguarding Arrangements during Covid-19 Pandemic

Background


On 27th March the DfE published guidance to schools in fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities during the pandemic restrictions. This is available at –

<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 briefing is intended to assist schools translate the government advice into the context of their school using the template and guidance below. This should form an addendum to your established Safeguarding Policy and be reviewed as necessary.

Water Primary School – Covid-19 Addendum to School Safeguarding Policy

KEY AREA	CONTENT
Maintaining links with safeguarding partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The school will check briefings from the DfE, Lancashire County Council (<i>add others as appropriate</i>) and local Safeguarding Advisers in LCC and MASH
Referrals to CSC and LADO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">LADO Services are operating during the pandemic, using Skype as necessary and so any concerns about harm to children are subject to consultation with LADO as in normal operating.CSC can be contacted on 0300 123 6720 (no hot-line services) and cypreferrals@lancashire.gov.ukThe Schools Safeguarding Advice Line and MASH Education Officers are still available and will be used for advice about threshold and wider safeguarding concerns.
Designated Safeguarding Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If a trained DSL is not available on site then detail here what alternative arrangements have been made in line with the DfE guidance – see link in title.If no DSL is available to school – staff can seek further guidance from the County Safeguarding advice line 01772 531196Children in our setting – we will ensure that if children from another school are being cared for on our site or vice versa then links will be in place between the respective DSL functions to share information.We will ensure arrangements to ensure that all staff, including volunteers and any adults who are not familiar with the setting know who to speak to if they have concerns about a child.We will have arrangements to ensure that all adults on school site understand the schools commitment to acting immediately in response to any safeguarding concerns
Supporting Vulnerable Children (allocated to a social worker)	<p>Ensure that there are arrangements in place to maintain the schools contribution to multi agency safeguarding and support for looked after children (CLA), Children In Need and children subject to Child Protection plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure that school can identify by name which children are vulnerable or should be in school - including how to contact them. School should request up-to-date contact details.Ensure that there are arrangements to identify which children have SWs and how to contact the SW – school will agree interim safeguarding plans with the SW.Ensure that school can identify which children are looked after and becoming looked after and the contact arrangements for the VHT.

Supporting potentially Vulnerable Children (not allocated to a social worker)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How you have identified those children who are vulnerable but do not have a formal Child in Need Plan / allocated social worker (single agency or CAF/TAF support) • How the school is maintaining contact / support and identifying any concerns in such families (Lancashire Children's Social Care have developed an interim risk assessment template which could be adapted for use –  <p>Appendix 1 to Risk Assessment Guidance</p>
Peer on peer abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What additional arrangements are in place to prevent and respond to any concerns related to peer on peer abuse between children who do not ordinarily attend your school or are being looked after by adults who do not know them well
Online Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are children who are not physically attending school being safeguarding, taking into account a likely increase in online activity? • How are parents being supported to help keep their children safe online at this time?
Children with specific health needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the school ensuring that you have the necessary information to meet children's health needs and that this is understood by those caring for them (allergies, asthma, epilepsy..etc)
Safer Recruitment & use of Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What arrangements are in place to safely recruit and oversee volunteers with reference to para 167-172 of KCSIE? • Ensure that new staff, staff relocated to the school, and volunteers understand the staff code of conduct • Ensure that any volunteers have been individually risk-assessed
Operation Encompass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools who receive an Operation Encompass notification in respect of a child who is not attending school should consider what further actions are required as they would in normal working, including speaking to parents and seeking advice from MASH / Schools Safeguarding Officer.

Named person responsible for ensuring staff are aware of the above.

DSL NAME: Chris Willan

DATE: 31/3/20

Named governor aware of the school/colleges interim arrangements

GOVERNOR NAME: Tracy Cuthbertson

DATE: 31/3/20