

Safeguarding Addendum – in response to the COVID–19 pandemic

The COVID - 19 pandemic has given us a more difficult task of ensuring that the children in our care are safeguarded. Children will be absent from school, often isolated in their home with no other adult contact. It is our responsibility to find different ways to ensure the safety of our children and we must have a heightened vigilance to their needs. The pandemic has brought with it or increased many other difficulties for our families and their children such as job loss, furloughed pay, mental health issues etc. Again, we need to find ways to support our families when we are not able to see them every day.

All procedures, policies and practices will continue to be followed as outlined in the child Protection Policy as far as is possible. The statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) continues to be the basis of all safeguarding in school. With regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that any appropriate new information gained about specific children is shared with relevant members of staff if necessary.

The SENCO and DSL will continue to attend or contribute to meetings such as family support meetings, CIN reviews, EHCP process by phone or 'virtually' through an online platform and have email and phone contact with social workers and the SEND team as necessary.

Any concerns should be reported to:

Designated Safeguarding Lead Deb Spinks (01908 679819 or 07584 308 835) or to

Ruchika Aggarwal (**Deputy Safeguarding Lead**) (01908 679819 or 07584 308 835) in her absence.

One of these Leads will always be available on the school site during school hours. Referrals and concerns can also be made to:

MK Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (**MASH**): 01908 253169 or 253170 or

Emergency **Social Work Team** (out of office hours) 01908 265545

Any concerns about a staff member who may pose a safeguarding risk to children should be reported to:

Headteacher (Designated Safeguarding Lead) – Deb Spinks (01908 679819) or

MK Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): 01908 253169 or 253170 or

Local Authority Designated Office (**LADO**): 01908 254300

Children at school:

- As children return to school, staff have the opportunity to observe the children closely and assess and monitor any new needs or concerns that they display.
- Staff will have a heightened awareness of adults' and children's mental health and well-being and provide the appropriate culture and environment in which to support them in a positive way. Refer to:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/755135/Mental_health_and_behaviour_in_schools_.pdf
- We will work with social workers to ensure the attendance of vulnerable children is maintained and their welfare monitored.

- We will work with the Inclusion and Intervention team to support the attendance of children with SEND in school or to support their learning and welfare at home.
- We have carried out risk assessments to ensure the safe and 'appropriate' return to school of any children with SEND.
- We have developed risk assessments to ensure the safety of children in and returning to school – to reduce the risk of coming into contact with the coronavirus or of it spreading.

Children at home:

- We will keep in regular contact with all of our families and ensure they know how to contact us through email, phone or text if they have any worries, concerns or want to chat to us.
- We will keep in contact through text messages, phone calls and face to face where necessary or appropriate (ensuring social distancing rules are observed).
- If contact cannot be made, staff will try other means to contact the family e.g. by door knocking (whilst observing social distance) or delivering a note to request them to contact or through the Centre's family support practitioners. The risk to the child / family will be assessed if contact still not made and appropriate action will then be taken e.g. contact social worker, refer to MASH.
- If a staff member has any concerns about a family or child as a result of this contact this will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and appropriate action will be taken, whether in the form of a referral or by putting appropriate support in place.
- We will direct parents to learning platforms, Youtube pages, our Facebook page and the Family Centre Facebook page to help them support their children's learning at home and provide support for keeping their children safe when using online resources.
- Staff will have a heightened awareness of adults' and children's mental health and well-being and provide the appropriate culture and environment in which to support them in a positive way. Refer to:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/755135/Mental_health_and_behaviour_in_schools_.pdf
- We will periodically deliver packs of activities for parents to share with their children, with covering letters to keep in contact with them and the school situation and to encourage them to contact us and to remind them how to do that.
- The Family Support Workers will continue their work with the families assigned to them through telephone calls and contact where appropriate or necessary.

Staff have undertaken Covid-19 safeguarding training provided by the Child Protection Company.