



Addendum to Child Protection Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19

Due to the current unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 virus it is necessary that all schools are prepared and have appropriate arrangements in place in relation to the management of any safeguarding or child protection concerns both on and off site during this time. Therefore, we have produced this cover note/addendum to our existing Academy's Child Protection Policy Template to ensure all staff, Trustees and Parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time.

Off Site: While our school site is closed during these unprecedented circumstances, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are Rebecca Blyth, Safeguarding Lead, Carolyn Bird, Deputy DSL, Natalie Preece, Deputy DSL and Rachel Hargreaves, Deputy DSL and continue to be our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies due to their level of training and skill. While we are closed our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will continue to remain in contact with those children who we deem are vulnerable or have a multi-agency statutory plan in place to safeguard them.

Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children

Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will continue to contact vulnerable children and their families in the following timescales if the school is closed or these children are not on site: children the subject of a Child Protection Plan (daily), children who have a Child in Need Plan (twice weekly dependent on the child's individual needs), Looked After Children (twice weekly dependent on the child's individual placement needs) or children with an Early Help Plan (weekly). If there are any issues raised during this time regarding their care, safety or ability to be contacted then the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will follow their local safeguarding procedures and contact their local front door services immediately (as per our Child Protection Policy). (ICRT 0191 5617007 or directly with the social worker/lead professional).

Availability and contact arrangements for families and professionals who wish to make contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies

During these unprecedented circumstances the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be available to be contacted by children, families and other services and agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all our vulnerable children. They can be contacted via the Safeguarding Leads mobile telephone number 07769 205426 or email address rblyth@ascenttrust.org whether they are on or off site they will gain contact with any family or professional as soon as possible.

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day 9am-3.30pm during term time ONLY. Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving calls and messages outside of these times. In the event that children or families need support immediately please contact our front door services immediately (as per the information within the Child Protection Policy) or contact the Police. ICRT 0191 5617007

Response to safeguarding or child protection concerns

As always our academy's duty of care is to keep children safe and while the arrangements of the physical care of children and physical presence of our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies may be different during this time the academy's response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our academy's Child Protection Policy.

Issued 27th March 2020

Revised 28th March 2020 in light of

DFE issued interim coronavirus (covid -19): safeguarding in schools colleges and other providers

<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>