

Abbey Wood Nursery School Covid-19 Safeguarding policy Addendum 31.3.2020

Safeguarding policy and practice summary in response to Covid 19 Appendix to Abbey Wood Nursery School Safeguarding Policy.

During this period of partial school closure, we continue to have due regard for the statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)' as per our funding agreement requirements. Whilst the rationale and importance that sits within our safeguarding policy remains, the practices through which we implement this policy have changed as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This document sits as an appendix to the Safeguarding including Child Protection policy. It outlines our practices to ensure we continue to undertake our duty to safeguard all children both onsite and currently educated at home.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) arrangements for children educated on a different site. (Closure of Abbey Wood Nursery School.)

- Where possible any school providing care for children is to have a trained DSL or deputy available on site
- When not on site a named DSL will be contactable during school opening hours. Please see your school rota for contact details.
- If in the unlikely event that a DSL is not available, please contact
 - Mash - 020 8854 8888

If you have concerns about a child:

- It is vital that if you have concerns about a child or family that you report them immediately.
- Any concerns about a child who attends Abbey Wood Nursery School should continue to be reported via cause for concern sheets and followed up with a conversation with a DSL.
- Any concerns about a child who may be attending Abbey Wood Nursery School, but not a pupil, needs to be referred immediately to the DSL on the school site and a concern form will need to be completed - see appendix 1.
- If you feel the out of hours concern is an emergency, please contact the MASH help line directly on 020 8854 8888

Concerns about staff and/or volunteers

- If you have a concern about a member of staff or volunteer please contact the Head of School immediately or the Headteacher

• If there is an allegation or concerns raised against the Headteacher the Chair of governors must be informed;

Headteacher -

Gill Crowley headteacher@abbeywood-nur.greenwich.sch.uk

Chair of Governors -

Jo Rawlings - jrawlings@thomastallis.org.uk

Interagency working

It is important that we remain in close contact with outside agencies during this period.

- Social workers of vulnerable children need to be informed of pupil attendance (those children on a child protection plan, or who are looked after). If the parent/carer of the child has taken the decision for them not to attend the social worker must be informed.
- Any concerns raised need to be relayed to the social worker immediately
- Contact sheets where requested for children with allocated social workers to be sent weekly.
- Reports requested for child protection conferences will be sent within the requested timescales
- Where possible school will attend virtual meetings as requested

Updated advice received from Greenwich LA

- MASH will operate a S47 child protection service and Covid 19 related emergencies only.
- Referrers for children with other levels of need will be informed to re-refer if safeguarding concerns emerge or if concerns remain at the end of the crisis.
- Visits to the most vulnerable children and young people will be prioritised and video and voice calls will take place for those in need of a service.
- There will be no face to face meetings and initial child protection conferences will not be held but instead a Child Safety plan will be put in place following strategy discussions where child protection concerns are discussed.
- Review Child Protection Conferences and reviews for children in Greenwich's care will be virtual with input from agencies via email or telephone. Reports will still need to be submitted and partners have received instruction on how to do this via email.

Attendance

- Usual day-to-day attendance processes are no longer in use. It is important however that schools follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their children and the children subsequently do not attend.
- To support the above when communicating with parents and carers to 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 college, or discontinues, the school should notify their social worker.
- The DfE has introduced a daily online attendance form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school.

Children and families who are of concern but do not meet government 'Vulnerable' criteria - see appendix 2

- A list of vulnerable children and families who require regular check-ins will be in place
- All families on the list will be made aware of the importance for the regular contact
- Vulnerable families will be contacted on at least a weekly basis
- Any concerns raised during this contact will be reported via a cause for concern relayed to a DSL

Where contact has not been successful schools will risk assess and either:

- o Try all other forms of contact expressing the need to urgently make contact
- o Undertake a home visit
- o Contact known family members/friends

- o If the family is still not contactable the decision to either request a police welfare check or make a MASH referral will need to be considered

- It is important that the list is reviewed regularly and remains fluid throughout this period
- Any vulnerable child whose parents/carers have decided not to send into school needs to be added to the out of school contact procedures

Peer on Peer abuse

Peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. During this period of lock down there is a heightened opportunity for online peer-on-peer abuse to occur. Any concerns should be reported immediately. Where peer on peer abuse is reported a DSL or member of SLT who will

- Contact the perpetrators parent/carer and discuss what has taken place
- Where possible speak to the child
- Speak to the victim and their parents
- Log the incident according to school policy

Online Safety

Online safety procedures will continue for those children who remain in school. It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Safeguarding 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 code of conduct.

We must always be mindful of safeguarding when promoting or using social media to children and families.

Information will be shared with parents to support their knowledge of online safety. Regular updates to reinforce the importance of being safe online will be shared with parents and children.

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

Mental health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils, such as CAMHs support where possible, sharing websites and helplines regularly and keeping in touch with identified families. We will also ensure parents have a means of keeping in contact with the school.

We will also signpost all parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

When sharing ideas and resources for children who are not attending nursery, we will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

Children/Staff from alternative providers moving into our schools

Staff:

- The DBS details of all staff must be received prior to them being allowed onsite. Photo ID will be requested and checked
- Host school will provide safeguarding and health and safety induction

Staff will be asked to sign in and out at the setting or any setting they attend. Staff from other settings will have a short induction from the senior member of staff/DSL on site.

Children:

Prior to admission the home school shall provide as appropriate:

- Parent/carer contact details
- Medical Care Plans / Toileting and intimate care plans
- EHCP/PLP/Timetable of support
- Brief family history/context/safeguarding indicators and where appropriate details of social worker
- Shift/rota working
- Transfer and knowledge of previous safeguarding concerns
- Collection arrangements
- Lunch arrangements

GDPR does not prevent the collection of information necessary to safeguard children

Safer recruitment/ volunteers and movement of staff

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.

Where schools and trusts are utilising volunteers, they should continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Please note that under no circumstances should a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Links with other policies/documents

This policy links with the following policies and procedure:

- Safeguarding policy and all documents referenced within that
- Code of Conduct
- Behaviour Policy
- IT Acceptable Use Policy and Online Safety
- Health and Safety Policy

This addendum will be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary during any periods of closure.

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Last reviewed 31st March 2021