

Covid 5th May 2021 Addendum to Safeguarding Policy

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) remains in force throughout the responses to coronavirus (COVID19). However, Ashton Community High School recognises that further measures or adaptations to current policies and procedures may be required in response to the pandemic.

Maintaining links with safeguarding partners

- Ashton Community Science College has and will continue to check briefings from Dfe, Lancashire County council and local Safeguarding Advisers in LCC and MASH.
- The school has and will continue to liaise with children's social care and relevant agencies.

Referrals to CSC and LADO

- LADO services are operating during the pandemic 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 and cyreferrals@lancashire.gov.uk. The school will continue to use this referral pathway via DSL or deputy as per school policy.
- The Schools' Safeguarding Advice line and MASH Education Officers are still available and will be used by members of the safeguarding team for advice about threshold and wider safeguarding concerns.

Designated safeguarding Lead

- One of the DSL's will always be in school throughout the working day. They can be also be contacted in the evenings via phone and email.
- The school is continually manned by members of SLT and Pastoral Support staff. All have up to date safeguarding and Prevent training and are in immediate contact with DSL on a daily basis.
- Referrals made by any adult in school or working from home continue to be made via Safeguard-this alerts DSL's by email.

Supporting Vulnerable Children (allocated to a social worker)

- Arrangements are in place to maintain the school's contribution to multi agency safeguarding and support for looked after children (CLA), Children In Need and children subject to Child Protection plans.
- The school has identified by name which children are vulnerable or should be in school- including how to contact them. Contact details are continually updated to ensure reliable communication during school closure.
- Children who are identified as vulnerable should be in school, and have told this, unless Social worker has been informed.
- Children with social workers have been identified and contact has been made with each. There is regular contact with Social Workers and DSL's to ensure safeguarding.
- Home contact is made immediately if any of these students fail to attend when expected.

Supporting potentially Vulnerable Children (not allocated to a social worker)

- Potentially vulnerable children have been identified by SLT and H of Y and have been contacted and told to attend school. This cohort will be monitored regularly in the same way as all children on the list.
- Home contact is made immediately if any of these students fail to attend when expected.

- If necessary, referrals will be made for these children and their families to the appropriate agencies.
- The school is maintaining support for vulnerable children who do not have a social worker by regular contact by phone and by home visits.

Online Safeguarding

- Taking into account a likely increase in online activity, students are regularly reminded of how to report issues online and how they can still use key staff as point of contact. Any issues reported will be recorded in CPOMS.
- There will be an increased focus on excessive use of social media/online devices and the link to negative effects on mental health as the school views this as a priority at this time.
- Staff have been reminded about their online presence and the school policy regarding communication with students via online platforms. The school website is a point of support for staff, children and parent Wellbeing and is updated regularly during this closure.

Children with specific health needs

- The school will ensure that the necessary information to meet children's health needs and that this is understood by those caring for or working with (allergies, asthma, epilepsy, etc.). This will be actioned by the SENCO as the needs arise. All children with an EHCP will receive weekly welfare checks from SEN staff.

Safer recruitment and use of Volunteers

- It is not anticipated that there will be new staff or volunteers working with the children in school. If this becomes the case, the usual safeguarding checks and induction will be applied to the individuals.
- Operation Encompass
- Any Operation Encompass notifications in respect of a child who is not attending school will be followed up by contact with the family, children's social care or other agencies as appropriate. This will be done by the DSL.

Additional support measures for all students

- One DSL to be either in school or available to be on site at all times
- Staff and students know who and how to report any safeguarding concerns.
- Weekly welfare form tutor meetings with all students.
- Students not attending Teams lessons are reported to PL
- Students not accessing work via Synergy are reported to PL
- PL and Online Learning Coordinator will contact students not accessing on-line learning.
- There are weekly Home visits to students with whom no contact has been made or where there is sufficient engagement in home learning.
- SEN Dept. do weekly phone call to all SEN students.
- Weekly phone calls to students identified as Vulnerable by PL and Mentors
- Mentors in weekly contact with students who require additional support.
- Weekly meetings with DHT and PL to co-ordinate support and identify concerns.