

Schools Safeguarding Service Briefing – Interim Safeguarding Arrangements during Covid-19 Pandemic 2020

Background

On 27th March 2020 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>

OSWALDTWISTLE SCHOOL – Covid-19 Addendum to School Safeguarding Policy – March 2020

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 and local Safeguarding Advisers in LCC and MASH on a regular basis
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 cyreferrals@lancashire.gov.uk The 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"> A trained DSL will ALWAYS be available to discuss any concerns and to make the appropriate referrals - In an exceptional circumstance where this is not the case please contact Sandra McKenna Sandra.mckenna@oswaldtwistle.org or Leesa Amin leesa.amin@oswaldtwistle.org Staff can also seek further guidance from the County Safeguarding advice line 01772 531196 Children 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 school’s commitment to acting immediately in response to any safeguarding concerns
Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrangements are in place to maintain the schools contribution to multi agency safeguarding and support for looked after children

<p>Vulnerable Children (allocated to a social worker)</p>	<p>(CLA), Children In Need and children subject to Child Protection plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the child’s PEN picture and information from Behaviour Watch, DSLs can identify by name which children are vulnerable or should be in school - including how to contact them. • Oswaldtwistle School will request and maintain up-to-date contact details. • Oswaldtwistle school has ensured that there are arrangements to identify which children have SWs and how to contact the SW – school have agreed interim safeguarding plans with the SW. • Oswaldtwistle school has ensured that we can identify which children are looked after and becoming looked after and the contact arrangements for the VHT
<p>Supporting potentially Vulnerable Children (not allocated to a social worker)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSLs will review those who are vulnerable but do not have a formal Child in Need Plan/ allocated social worker (single agency or CAF/TAF support) • Staff will alert DSLs directly and via Behaviour Watch any concerns that arise from communication / lack of communication and the DSL team will review what support is required • Keyworkers will be maintaining contact via email and phones with students and families • We will adapt Lancashire Children's Social Care interim risk assessment template once finalised • Staff from Oswaldtwistle school will make regular welfare check telephone calls to all students and every student can access the school’s online learning platform and make contact with staff regarding any issues/ questions about the work that has been set. • Where we have concerns for a young person due to not being able to make contact with the family or worries that come out of conversations with parents or carers, we will request a welfare check from the Police. This will be done by ringing 101 or emailing the control room directly.
<p>Peer on peer abuse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keyworkers in their regular communication will use our normal guidelines and policy around peer on peer abuse including alerting the DSL team. • Peer on Peer Abuse- as pupils are not in school parents will be advised to report any concerns of harassment or online or face to face bullying to the police. This can be done by ringing 101.
<p>Online Safeguarding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online safety guidance is published on the website and key workers will signpost parents and students to this. • Oswaldtwistle school has purchased an online e-learning package for

	<p>parents on Online Safety in order that parents can learn how best to protect their children online – All parents have been sent information on how to access this e-learning from the school’s website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and families will be asked to alert DSL Sandra McKenna – Sandra.mckenna@oswaldtwistle.org of any online safeguarding concerns
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We also know that Parent’s Mental Health could be affected by the current situation, they can access: Samaritans – 116123 • In cases where we feel that a pupil’s mental health is deteriorating we will recommend a referral to the Crisis Team. Where we have immediate concerns for pupils and parents feel they can’t keep their child safe we will recommend that parents contact the ambulance service/ Police on 999. • Young People can access Kooth.com online - Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people
Children with specific health needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any medical or specific health needs of students coming into school will be relayed to the staff working on site. • Care Plans are in place for specific health needs such as Diabetes, asthma etc
Safer Recruitment & use of Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this period we are not using any volunteers in school.
Free School Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Families on Free School Meals • Families who are eligible for free school meals are being provided with access to shopping vouchers redeemable at a supermarket of their choice. These vouchers are accessed via text message and email on a weekly basis.
Operation Encompass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where we receive an Operation Encompass update as DSLs we will decide the appropriate best steps, and this may include speaking to parents, social workers and seeking advice from MASH / Schools Safeguarding Officer

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

DSL NAME: Sandra McKenna

DATE: 5th February 2022

Named governor aware of the school/colleges interim arrangements

GOVERNOR NAME: Michael Clack

DATE: 5th February 2022