

Poole High School
Addendum to Child Protection policy – version 6.0

Child protection during national COVID-19 isolation measures

This Addendum to our Child Protection policy sets out details of our safeguarding arrangements for:

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Context

The way schools are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual. Due to isolation guidelines there are periods when not all children & staff are able to be on the school site.

This addendum of the Poole High School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements when students or staff become affected by national isolation guidelines:

If during a period of isolation you have any concerns regarding child protection and/or safeguarding issues which may arise either from your contact with students or from information passed on to you in the course of your work, please do not hesitate to report these concerns ASAP. Concerns are to be reported either via phone asking to speak to one of the safeguarding team or via the email link below. safeguarding@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk

Version control and dissemination

This is version 6.0 of this annex. Our DSL or a deputy DSL in line with government announcements that affect the normal operating procedures of schools will review this document. This addendum is available on the school website here <https://poolehigh.co.uk/school-information/safeguarding/> and is made available to staff by submitting a version to the "Staffroom" Google classroom and signposting it via an "all staff" email.

Due to the possibility of the DSL or DDSL's having to isolate, we will ensure that on any given day all staff on school site will be aware of who the DSL and deputy DSLs are and how staff can speak to them.

Safeguarding priority

During these challenging times the safeguarding of all children at our school – whether they are currently at home or in attendance – continues to be our priority. The following fundamental safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children continue to come first
- if anyone in our school has a safeguarding concern, they will act immediately
- a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy DSL will always be available on site or via safeguarding phone/email
- no unsuitable people will be allowed to gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online.

Current school position

In line with government guidance from 8.03.2021 Poole High School will reopen for all students except those that are required to isolate in line with national health guidance. Students that are not on site due to isolating will access work from home via Google Classroom and may have the option to attend a virtual "live" lesson via this platform. As part of the school Covid-19 measures students were audited to identify those without computer access at home, for these students the relevant technology has been provided and in some cases safeguard trained staff will provide physical work packs to their home. Any online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the Poole High School Code of Conduct.

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

The following protocols for working remotely during Covid-19 pandemic have been put in place and are designed to support and protect staff and safeguard students.

1. Communication between staff and students can only be through: School email, Google Classrooms, Contact via phone through parents or carers.
2. The use of live communication to students should only be used in whole class situations. i.e. If staff member is isolating then they can broadcast into their classroom from home to teach the lesson with another member of staff being present in classroom.
3. The use of staff images not to be made available to students
4. Any safeguarding issue should be reported immediately to the DSL or deputy DSL via safeguarding@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk.
5. Certain groups of students are able to access online coaching and tuition through external providers i.e. "Coach Bright". Poole High School and External providers have shared their safeguarding guidance to protect both students and staff.

Safeguarding partners' advice

We continue to work closely with our safeguarding partners, and we will ensure this addendum is consistent with their advice. This will include expectations for supporting children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need. The current advice is below.

- BCP - Updated Schools Watch advice
- Virtual Schools - Guidance on maintaining educational provision for children in care.
- BCP – Children missing in education guidance
- For full details (see supporting documents/advice section 17)
- BCP have released guidance of newly structured "First Response Hub". This brings the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Poole's Early Help Advice Hub (EHAP) together under one umbrella to streamline provision for vulnerable students.
- BCP "schools news with safeguarding updates – Latest version here <https://mailchi.mp/bcpcouncil.gov.uk/safeguarding-in-schools-newsletter-2-february-2021?e=69ddc1c805>

Roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for safeguarding in Poole High School remain in line with our Child Protection Policy.

If possible, our DSL (Sian Phillips) and at least one deputy DSL will be available on site during the school day. Where this is not possible, we will:

- have a trained DSL or deputy DSL available by phone and/or online video; or
- ensure we have access to the Local Authority's Designated Officer (LADO – Julie Murphy)

Where our DSL or a deputy DSL cannot be on site, then in addition to one of the above options we will also ensure a senior leader from the school takes responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) for child protection is Sian Phillips

Contact details: email: s.phillips@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk tel: 01202 666988

The deputy designated lead(s) is Adam Bousfield

Contact details: email: a.bousfield@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk tel: 01202 666988

Both are also contactable through the school safeguarding email address safeguarding@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with EHC plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend school, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. Where a parent does not want their child to attend school, and their child is considered vulnerable, we will discuss this with the social worker and explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where the school is unable to make contact with the parent or child a risk assessment will be carried out before a home visit is conducted by school staff. The visit will take place in line with social distancing guidance from a safe distance i.e. end of house drive. The purpose of this visit will be to obtain "eyes on" the student and act as a reminder to parents/carers that accepting communication from school is both necessary and expected.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed by the schools SENCO in consultation with the local authority and parents to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

We will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Senior leaders in our school, especially the DSL (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are.

We will continue to work with children's social workers, adolescent support workers, family outreach workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

Increased vulnerability or risk

The safeguarding team at Poole High School are acutely aware that negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Staff will be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Where we are providing for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Poole High staff will be aware of the mental health of children and their parents and carers and will contact the DSL or a deputy if they have any concerns.

Attendance

Where a child is expected but does not arrive at school, we will follow our normal working attendance procedure and attempt to contact the family. If contact cannot be made, the DSL or a deputy DSL will be informed.

The DSL or a deputy will attempt to contact the parents through various methods, such as telephone, text, email or contact a relative in the first instance. If contact cannot be made or

if the DSL or a deputy DSL deems it necessary, we will undertake a home visit or ask an appropriate agency to do so. A risk assessment will be carried out before any such visit is made to ensure staff the family are not put at risk.

Reporting concerns about children or staff

The importance of all staff acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns remains. Staff will continue to follow our Child Protection procedures <https://poolehigh.co.uk/school-information/safeguarding/> and advise the DSL of any concerns they have about any child, including those who are not attending school.

Due to being in school the varied arrangements in place as a result of the COVID-19 measures do not reduce the risks that children may face from staff or volunteers. As such, it remains extremely important that any allegations of abuse made against staff or volunteers attending our school are dealt with thoroughly and efficiently and in accordance with our Allegations Against Staff Policy <https://poolehigh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Safeguarding-Policy-Sept-2020.pdf>

Staff training and induction

Following the national lockdown due to COVID-19 measures, our DSL and deputy DSLs have all received their refresher training to ensure they are fully up to date.

All current school staff have received safeguarding training and have read Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education. When new staff are recruited or volunteers join us, they will receive a safeguarding induction in accordance with our Child Protection Policy. These procedures remain in full affect throughout the duration of the COVID-19 measures.

If staff from another setting attend the school site then, in line with government guidance, we will not undertake any additional safeguarding checks if the setting providing those staff confirm that:

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check and, that in the opinion of that setting, nothing resulted from those checks that provided any caused for concern
- there are no safeguarding investigations into the conduct of that individual
- the individual remains suitable to work with children.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the school or gain access to children.

When recruiting new staff, we will continue to follow our Safer Recruitment policy.

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.

For volunteers we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019. Under no

circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to engage in regulated activity.

It is essential from a safeguarding perspective that we are aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers are on our school site and that the appropriate checks have been carried out on those individuals. We will continue to maintain our single central record (SCR) during these measures to ensure we have this awareness

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise that children can abuse their peers and our staff are clear about the school's policy and procedures regarding peer on peer abuse. All peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. We also recognise that abuse can still occur during a school closure or partial closure and between those children who do attend the school site during these measures.

Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse and will follow the process set out in our Child Protection Policy, which can be accessed here

<https://poolehigh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Safeguarding-Policy-Sept-2020.pdf>

Online safety

It is likely that children will be using the internet and engaging with social media far more during this time if isolationing. Our staff are aware of the signs of cyberbullying and other online risks and our filtering and monitoring software remains in use during this time to safeguarding and support children.

Our staff will follow the process for online safety set out in our Child Protection Policy

Staff who interact with children online will continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. If a staff member is concerned about a child, that staff member will follow the approach set out in this annex and report that concern to the DSL or to a deputy DSL.

New children at the school

Children may join our school from other settings. When they do, we will seek from those settings the relevant welfare and child protection information. This is relevant for all children that join us, but it will be especially important where children are vulnerable.

For vulnerable children we will ensure we understand the reasons for the vulnerability and any arrangements in place to support them. As a minimum we will seek access to that child's EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or, for looked-after children, their personal education plan and know who the child's social worker (and, for looked-after children, who the responsible VSH is).

Ideally this will happen before a child arrives but where that is not possible it will happen as soon as reasonably practicable.

Any exchanges of information will ideally happen at DSL (or deputy) level, and likewise between special educational needs co-ordinators/named individual with oversight of SEN provision for children with EHC plans. However, it is acknowledged this may not always be possible. Where this is the case our school senior leaders will take responsibility.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment based on the information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know the information.

Supporting children not in school

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive additional pastoral support in school, they will ensure that a communication plan is in place to support that child. Details of that plan will be recorded in the safeguarding file for that child. It will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains current during these measures.

Supporting documents/content

SCHOOLWATCH Procedure

For Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Schools/College

SCHOOLWATCH is a Dorset police process and it can only be triggered by the Control Room at Dorset Police Headquarters.

- If a school/College has information about a community safety incident which may pose a risk to children e.g. child approached inappropriately on the way home from school, the DSL or allocated staff member must contact the Control Room at Dorset Police Headquarters on 101 and state they have information for SCHOOLWATCH.
- The police will take all of the details from the school and decide if they need to trigger a SCHOOLWATCH.
- If this is the case, the Police will inform BCP Council via e mail headed Schoolwatch ChildrenYoungPeopleAndLearning@poole.gov.uk
- The LA will take all the details including an Incident Number. A copy of the Schoolwatch form will be completed by the Business Support Manager .
- The Business Support Manager will then contact all schools/College and contacts held within the Schoolwatch distribution group via an email and attach the form. The form will contain detailed information about the incident as well as contact information such as the allocated police officer. This will be sent as URGENT/HIGH PRIORITY to the school office and be copied to the Headteacher/Principal and DSL.

- The school will take appropriate immediate action based on the information received from School Watch e.g. contact all parents, remind children about stranger danger in line with KCSIE guidance.
- Any further updates relating to the incident will be emailed out as and when received.



