



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 school's Child Protection Policy Template to ensure all staff, governors and parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time.

On Site: If any safeguarding concerns arise relating to any of the children accessing the on-site school provision, the school's usual safeguarding protocol will be followed where necessary (see existing UCPS Child Protection Policy). If, due to timetabling of on-site session, a Designated/Deputy Safeguarding Lead is not present in person, the senior member of staff on duty that day will contact a Designated/Deputy Safeguarding Lead immediately who will then advise and/or act upon the concern. The usual front door services referenced in our full Child Protection Policy will be contacted where appropriate.

Off Site: While our school site is closed during these unprecedented circumstances, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are **Gary Wright, Marcus Dickinson, Alison Forster and Alicia Walker** and they 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

Where our school remains open, the Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are fully aware of their vulnerable children and those they are expecting into school each day, should that child not arrive then the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy will make contact with the parent or carer immediately and if no response contact front door services immediately.

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 (weekly), children who have a Child in Need Plan (weekly), Looked After Children (weekly or fortnightly 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).

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 school email address (info@usworthcolliery.co.uk) in the first instance and, whether they are on or off site, they will gain contact with any family or professional as soon as possible.

Alternatively, they may be contacted via individual staff emails as per below:

Mr Wright - mrwright@usworthcolliery.co.uk

Mr Dickinson - mrdickinson@usworthcolliery.co.uk

Mrs Forster - mrsforster@usworthcolliery.co.uk

Mrs Walker - mrswalker@usworthcolliery.co.uk

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day 8:30am - 3:30pm **ONLY**. Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving 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.

Response to Safeguarding or Child Protection Concerns

As always our school'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 school's response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school's Child Protection Policy.

Re-issued January 2021