

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.

Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies

While our school site is closed (except to children of Key Workers and vulnerable children as identified from Government guidance) 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.

Should our school site be entirely closed then we will update our website and Child Protection Policy with our arrangements.

Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children

Where our school remain 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 at school, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy will make contact with the parent or carer immediately and, if there is no response from this, they will 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 (daily where appropriate), children who have a Child in Need Plan (once weekly), Looked After Children (once weekly dependent on the child's individual placement needs) or children with an Early Help Plan (once 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 (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.

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day (9am-3.30pm) ONLY. Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving calls and 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.

