**Annex 1**

**COVID-19 school closure arrangements for**

**Safeguarding and Child Protection at**

**Waseley Hills High School**

**School Name: Waseley Hills High School**

**Policy owner: Emma Dodds**

**Date: Updated by WCF January 2021**our

Your school logo

This addendum of the Waseley Hills High School Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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1. **Context**

On January 5th, 2021 another national lockdown was imposed. Schools, alternative provision, special schools, and colleges will remain open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers only. All other children and students will learn remotely.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number

of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to

the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Waseley Hills High School will continue to follow DfE COVID-19 guidance.

**Key Contacts:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Name** | **Email** |
| **Designated Safeguarding Lead** | **Mrs E**  **Dodds** | [Edodds@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:Edodds@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk) |
| **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (s)** | **Mr A Boot** | [aboot@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:aboot@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk) |
| **Headteacher** | **Mr A Roll** | [Aroll@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:Aroll@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk) |
| **Safeguarding Governor** | **Mrs H Williams** | [Hwilliams3@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:Hwilliams3@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk) |
| **SENCO** | **Mr J Arnold** | [Jarnold@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:Jarnold@waseleyhills.worcs.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 education, health and care (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.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college 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.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. We ensure that all children with an EHC plan will have returned to school in September 2020. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children’s social care support.

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

* are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
* have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
* have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  + children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services or in the process of being referred to children’s services
  + adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
  + those at risk of becoming NEET (‘not in employment, education or training’)
  + those living in temporary accommodation
  + those who are young carers
  + those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  + care leavers
  + others at the provider and local authority’s discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Waseley Hills High School will continue to work with and support children’s social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children’s social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this is:

**Mrs E Dodds**

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend

an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that

put them at risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child

to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker

and Waseley Hills High School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19,

Waseley Hills High School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

**Attendance monitoring**

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-today attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

Waseley Hills High School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether Children in Need should be attending school – Waseley Hills High School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Waseley Hills High School will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

To support the above, Waseley Hills High School will, when communicating with parents/carers will confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school,

or discontinues, Waseley Hills High School will notify their social worker.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Waseley Hills High School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and 1 Deputy DSL.

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:** Mrs E Dodds

**The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is:** Mr A Boot

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where

this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via

phone or online video - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior

leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, My Concern and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children’s social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

It is important that all Waseley Hills High School staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of that person is and how to speak to them.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **DSL** | **1st Relief DSL** | **2nd Relief DSL** |
| Monday | Mrs E Dodds | Mr A Boot | Mr A Roll |
| Tuesday | Mrs E Dodds | Mr A Boot | Mr A Roll |
| Wednesday | Mrs E Dodds | Mr A Boot | Mr A Roll |
| Thursday | Mrs E Dodds | Mr A Boot | Mr A Roll |
| Friday | Mrs E Dodds | Mr A Boot | Mr A Roll |

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency

meetings, which can be done remotely.

**Reporting a concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process

outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via My Concern, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their My Concern from home, they should contact school reception and inform the member of SLT on duty and follow-up with an email the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Leads; this will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done via email. Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: **Mr E Hogg**.

**Safeguarding Training and induction**

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID

19 virus. For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Waseley Hills High School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another education or children’s workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

* the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children’s barred list check
* there are no known concerns about the individual’s suitability to work with children
* there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting’s child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

**Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff**

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children’s workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Waseley Hills High School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2020).

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.

Where Waseley Hills High School are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in KCSIE (2020). Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Waseley Hills High School will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE (2020).

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such,

Waseley Hills High School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE (2020).

**Online safety in schools**

Waseley Hills High School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online; this includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

**Children and online safety away from school**

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children’s social care and as required, the police, following school safeguard procedures.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the School’s code of conduct.

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

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons:

* No 1:1s, groups only
* Both staff and students are not to use any form of webcam, live lessons will be audio only
* All students are to be muted, there is to be no use of microphones by students
* Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family ‘getting on’ with their day.
* Language must be professional and appropriate, including all communication via the Teams chat facility by both staff and students
* Staff must only use platforms provided by Waseley Hills High School to communicate with pupils (Microsoft Teams)
* Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

**Supporting children not in school**

Waseley Hills High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded on My Concern, as should a record of contact have made.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded. Staff should not use their personal numbers to contact parents/carers or students; where possible these calls should be made by the team of staff in school.

Waseley Hills High School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Waseley Hills High School recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at Waseley Hills High School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils’ work where they are at home.

Waseley Hills High School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on My Concern when appropriate.

**Supporting children in school**

Waseley Hills High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. Waseley Hills High School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Waseley Hills High School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on hand washing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

Waseley Hills High School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on My Concern when appropriate.

Where Waseley Hills High School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – we will discuss them immediately with the SLT.

**Peer on Peer Abuse**

Waseley Hills High School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow theprinciples as set out in KCSIE (2020) and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required ensuring the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on My Concern and appropriate referrals made.

**Social Distancing**

All staff and students working in school will observe the government guidelines on social distancing. Currently these are:

* Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
* If you go out, stay 2m (6ft) away from other people at all times
* Wash your hands regularly