

## **Annex to Safeguarding/Child Protection policy – version 1.0**

### **Child protection during the COVID-19 measures**

#### **1 Context**

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual. Most children are no longer in a school setting and staff numbers have been affected by the outbreak.

Schools have been asked to provide care for children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This Annex to our Safeguarding/Child Protection policy sets out details of our safeguarding arrangements for:

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#### **2 Version control and dissemination**

This is version 1.0 of this annex. It will be reviewed by our DSL or a deputy DSL on a weekly basis as circumstances continue to evolve or following updated Department for Education advice or guidance. It is available on the school website and is disseminated to staff through school email.

We will ensure that on any given day all staff and volunteers in attendance will be aware of who the DSL and deputy DSLs are and how staff and volunteers can to speak to them.

#### **3 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
- no unsuitable people will be allowed to gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online.

#### 4 Current school position

*Levenshulme High School's provision for the children of keyworkers and vulnerable children is co-located at Whalley Range 11-18 High School site.*

#### 5 Safeguarding partners' advice

We continue to work closely with our three safeguarding partners, and we will ensure this annex 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.

#### 6 Roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for safeguarding in our school remain in line with our Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy.

Our DSL/ one of our deputy DSLs will be available by phone during the school day. In addition, we will ensure that a senior leader from the school takes responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

**The Academy Co-Headteachers are Donna Johnson and Neil Johnson**

Contact details: email: [djohnson@levenshulmehigh.co.uk](mailto:djohnson@levenshulmehigh.co.uk)

Contact details: email: [njohnson@levenshulmehigh.co.uk](mailto:njohnson@levenshulmehigh.co.uk)

The designated safeguarding lead is **Donna Johnson**

Contact details: email: [djohnson@levenshulmehigh.co.uk](mailto:djohnson@levenshulmehigh.co.uk)

**The lead child protection officer** is Lisa Schofield

Contact details: email: [lschofield@levenshulmehigh.co.uk](mailto:lschofield@levenshulmehigh.co.uk)

**The child protection officer** is Oonagh Farrell

Contact details: email: [ofarrell@levenshulmehigh.co.uk](mailto:ofarrell@levenshulmehigh.co.uk)

**The School Nurse** is Tracey Knowles

Contact details: email: [tknowles@levenshulmehigh.co.uk](mailto:tknowles@levenshulmehigh.co.uk)

**The Inclusion Admin Support** is Anita Counter

Contact details: email: [acountert@levenshulmehigh.co.uk](mailto:acountert@levenshulmehigh.co.uk)

**The designated teacher for Looked after children** is Donna Johnson

Contact details: email: [djohnson@levenshulmehigh.co.uk](mailto:djohnson@levenshulmehigh.co.uk)

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 maintain contact with the child and family via telephone.

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 place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. 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 (where appropriate) and expect that all our students access learning remotely.

Senior leaders in our school, especially the DSL (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are, and they have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

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

Contact with vulnerable children will be recorded electronically on CPOMS.

## **8 Increased vulnerability or risk**

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.

Our staff and volunteers 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.

## **9 Attendance**

Attendance at provision is monitored daily and reported to the local authority and DFE. Where a child is expected but does not arrive at school, we will follow our 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 by telephone or by contact with 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.

## **10 Reporting concerns about children or staff**

The importance of all staff and volunteers acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns remains. Staff and volunteers will continue to follow our Safeguarding/Child Protection procedures by recording concerns on CPOMS which is monitored throughout the school day. The DSL will be advised of any concerns about any child.

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 are dealt with thoroughly and efficiently. Any concerns about a member of staff or adult in school should immediately be reported to the Academy Headteacher and any concerns about the Academy Headteacher should be immediately reported to the Chair of Governors.

## **11 Staff training and induction**

For the duration of the COVID-19 measures, our DSL and deputy DSLs are unlikely to receive their refresher training. In line with government guidance, our trained DSLs and deputy DSLs will be classed as trained even if they cannot receive this training.

All current school staff have received safeguarding training and have read Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

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 cause for concern
- there are no safeguarding investigations into the conduct of that individual
- the individual remains suitable to work with children.

## **12 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.

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. All staff and visitors to school must sign in and out of the premises using the InVentry system. We will continue to maintain our single central record (SCR) during these measures to ensure we have this awareness.

## **13 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 Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy, recording all concerns on CPOMS.

## **14 Online safety**

It is likely that children will be using the internet and engaging with social media far more during this time. 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 safeguard and support children.

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 report that concern immediately using CPOMS. Staff must not live-stream video lessons or communicate with students via any video facility.

### **15 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.

Any exchanges of information will ideally happen at DSL (or deputy) level, and likewise between special educational needs co-ordinators 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.

### **16 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. All students have been emailed details of the CP team email address [childprotection@levenshulmehigh.co.uk](mailto:childprotection@levenshulmehigh.co.uk)