

West Kirby School & College



Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy

Covid-19 Addendum

January 2021

Introduction

As our school is remaining open for vulnerable children and children of keyworkers during the current Covid-19 crisis, we are taking additional steps to safeguard our pupils, staff and parents. To do this, we are acting in accordance with all NHS and Public Health England advice, as well as the Department for Education guidance for schools.

Staff, young people and children **must** stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others.

Guidance on how schools should operate together with which children should be attending school is contained in Department for Education guidance: Restricting attendance during the National Lockdown : School

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/950510/School_national_restrictions_guidance.pdf

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children 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

Senior leaders and members of the safeguarding team know who our most vulnerable children are and have the flexibility to offer a place to any pupil who is on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Critical Workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

Guidance on which roles have critical worker status can be found on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

Monitoring Attendance

Attendance of pupils will continue to be monitored; this is particularly important in respect of vulnerable children. Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils are also advised not to attend school. Schools will continue to record attendance in the register. Schools will follow up on absences of the pupils who are expected to be in school but where a parent wishes for their child to be absent, we will authorise the absence during this national lockdown period. Our school will continue to notify social workers where children with a social worker do not attend school. Absence will not be penalised. Attendance will be reported to the Department of Education as and when required.

Reporting of Safeguarding Concerns

All safeguarding concerns will continue to be reported in the usual way as set out in our Safeguarding Policy. All concerns are reported into the Integrated Front Door which is operating as usual.

Our school's approach ensures that the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a deputy is always on site while the school is open. The Designated Safeguarding Lead's duties also include liaising with children's social workers, contributing towards statutory assessments and attending multi-agency meetings.

In the unusual circumstances when the DSL or Deputy is not on site, the Principal or a member of the Senior Leadership Team will email all staff, who are on-site, by 9am, to advise them of who is acting in an on-site safeguarding lead role together with their contact details. However, the DSL and DDSL are usually contactable remotely if for any reason they are not on site.

Advice for attending safeguarding meetings and local working arrangements

Our school is following the advice published by Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) covering attendance at statutory meetings and visits to children's homes. Where possible audio/video conferencing is used instead of face to face attendance at meetings and visits to pupil's homes are actively discouraged. Where safeguarding concerns exist for new or existing cases these will be discussed with the Local Authority.

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements in place children could be at greater risk of abuse from staff or volunteers. We remind all staff to maintain the view that 'it could happen here' and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to the Principal or in the case of a concern about the Principal, the Chair of Governors.

We have confirmed that the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority are:

Anne King Local Authority Designated Officer for Allegations (LADO)

0151 666 5525/07342058612 anneking1@wirral.gov.uk or

Kerry Williams kerrywilliams@wirral.gov.uk

The LADO process remains unchanged, with the duty upon the Principal or Chair of Governors to report any allegations within 24 hours.

Remote education

Schools have a duty to provide education for state-funded, school-age children whose attendance would be contrary to government guidance or law around coronavirus (COVID-19). To achieve this our school is delivering education through a mix of remote education and or/ paper format. Remote education provided will be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school and will include both recorded or live direct teaching time, and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. Full details on how to access remote education will be sent out to parents through a separate communication together with information being available on the school website. Parents can arrange for the collection of paper resources by contacting the school office. Further information on remote education can be found on:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/950510/School_national_restrictions_guidance.pdf

On-line safety

As some children return to school it will be important that schools continue to provide a safe online environment for those who remain at home. Schools will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children when they are online using the school 's systems. All staff who interact with children, including online, will continue to look out for signs that a child may be at risk. Any concerns should be dealt with in accordance

with the Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy through the DSL and where appropriate referrals should continue to be made to children's social care and as required the police. Staff will also be in regular contact with parents and carers. Those communications should continue to be used to reinforce the importance of children being safe online together with available support mechanisms, should problems be encountered.

Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- [Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Internet Matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC and O2, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services

Government has also provided:

- [support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online harms](#), includes advice about specific harms such as online child sexual abuse, sexting, and cyberbullying
- [support to stay safe online](#) includes security and privacy settings, blocking unsuitable content, and parental controls

Action to be taken if someone develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) on the school site

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or high temperature in an education setting they should be sent home and advised to be ready and willing to engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. This will include:

- Booking a test – all children can be tested, including children under the age of 5
- Provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with
- Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (Covid 19) or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of coronavirus (Covid19)

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible and if appropriate, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door. Our staff are mindful of individual children's needs – for example it would not be appropriate for younger children or children with additional medical needs to be left alone without supervision. Ideally, a window should be open for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. Advice is contained in the following document:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>

Clinical advice will be sought where necessary through the NHS via 111 or online through <https://111.nhs.uk> . In an emergency the school staff will call 999, if the patient is seriously ill, injured or there is risk to life. Parents will be advised not to visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or hospital with their child.

If a member of staff has helped someone who has been taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.

In most cases, closure of educational settings will not be needed but this will be a local decision based on various factors such as establishment size and risk of further spread. Advice will be sought from the Local Authority and Public Health England before any decision to close is taken.

If there is an urgent public health action to take, the educational setting will be contacted by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team who will undertake a risk assessment and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken. PHE will rarely advise a school to close but this may be necessary if there are so many staff being isolated that the school has operational issues. The local authority will support school to make this assessment. PHE will work with the Principal or Senior Leadership Team, and the Local Authority Public Health team, to advise on the management of children, pupils or staff.

Limiting spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in school

The school is actively promoting the NHS and Public Health England advice to limit the spread of Covid-19 in the school. Action taken includes:

- Reminding everyone on the school site of the public health advice
- Reminding staff and families to wash their hands for 20 seconds more frequently than normal – these messages are promoted in all sessions/lessons
- Promoting social distancing advice
- Having a cycle of regular cleaning in the school

Addendum drawn up

14 January 2021

Ratified by Governors