



## Annex to Child Protection Policy COVID-19 changes to our Child Protection Policy

### Response to COVID-19

There have been significant changes within our setting in response to the outbreak and the uncertainty of Education Restart

Despite the changes, the school's Child Protection Policy is fundamentally the same: **children and young people always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the DT in line with our established safeguarding procedure.**

This annex sets out some of the adjustments we are making in line with the changed arrangements in the school and following advice from government and local agencies.

### Reporting arrangements remain unchanged

The school arrangements continue in line with our child protection policy.

The Designated Teacher (DT) is: Mrs F Fields

The Deputy Designated Teacher (DDT) is: Miss S Lynn

The school's approach ensures the DT or a deputy is always on site while the school is open. In the unusual circumstance this is not possible the DT or Deputy DT will be contactable by telephone.

Staff will continue to follow the Child Protection procedure and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any child, whether in school or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Children's services may be affected by the impact of the virus on staff and an increased demand for services. Where a child is at risk of significant harm there may be a need to be persistent in referring concerns to the local authority. The arrangements for contacting gateway are:

**0300 1234 333**

Should a child in the school's view be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond, the school will immediately follow the safeguarding children partnership escalation procedure.

### Identifying vulnerability

During Lockdown many families were assisted by the school or local community and we will continue to be aware of this and ensure we maintain our pastoral care for our pupils and their extended families.

### **Staff will be aware of increased risk**

The pressures on children and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, poverty, and financial or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in the setting of any work for children to undertake at home, both immediately on the children returning to school and if any further lockdown is imposed (including recognising the impact of online learning – see below). Staff will be aware of the mental health of both children and their parents and carers, informing the DT about any concerns.

### **Peer on peer abuse**

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a school closure or partial closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse, including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision.

### **Risk online**

Young people will have been using the internet more during this period and the school has used some online approaches to deliver some learning. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of cyberbullying and other risks online and apply the same child-centred safeguarding practices as when children were learning at the school.

- The school continues to ensure appropriate filters and monitors are in place
- Our governing body will review arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate
- The school has taken on board guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on safe remote learning and guidance for safer working practice from the Safer Recruitment Consortium. We have reviewed the code of conduct and information sharing policy accordingly.
- Staff have discussed the risk that professional boundaries could slip during this exceptional period and been reminded of the school's code of conduct and importance of using school systems to communicate with children and their families.
- Children and young people accessing remote learning receive guidance on keeping safe online and know how to raise concerns with the school, Childline, the UK Safer Internet Centre and CEOP.
- Parents and carers have received information about keeping children safe online
- Free additional support for staff in responding to online safety issues can be accessed from the Professionals Online Safety Helpline at the UK Safer Internet Centre.