

Annex to Child Protection Policy

COVID-19 changes to our Child Protection Policy

30 March 2020

Response to COVID-19

There have been significant changes within our setting in response to the outbreak. Many young people are now at home and staffing is likely to be significantly affected through illness and self-isolation.

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 DSL 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

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

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Bretta Townend-Jowitt, head.2106@kingham.oxon.sch.uk

The Deputy DSLs are:

Kami Smith, [ksmi3647@kingham.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:kami3647@kingham.oxon.sch.uk)

Emma Jenkinson, emen9982@kingham.oxon.sch.uk

The school's approach ensures the DSL or a deputy is on site or available by phone while the school is open.

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 children's services are:

For children who are at immediate danger, call the police on 999.

For children who are at immediate concern then the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) should be contacted immediately. Phone **0345 050 7666** during office hours (8.30am – 5pm, Monday to Thursday, 8.30am – 4pm, Friday). Outside office hours call the Emergency Duty Team on **0800 833 408**.

If you think the child is being sexually exploited contact the Kingfisher Team on **01865 309196**.

If you have a non-immediate concern or require a no names consultation contact the Local Community Support Service. LCSS north **0345 2412703**. Opening hours are 8.30 – 5pm (Mon to Thu) 8.30 – 4pm (Fri).

Identifying vulnerability

We have undertaken a scoping exercise to identify the most vulnerable children.

We have put in place specific arrangements in respect of the following groups:

- Looked After Children – regular contact with the family, Virtual School and social worker, offer of school place.
- Previously Looked After Children – regular contact with the family, offer of school place.
- Children who have, or have previously had, a social worker – regular contact with the family. There is an expectation that children with a social worker **must** attend school (or another school by arrangement), unless in consultation with the child’s social worker and family it is agreed this is not in the best interests of the child.
- Children with an EHCP – regular contact with the family, offer of a school place.
- Children on the edge of social care involvement or pending allocation of a social worker – regular contact with the family, regular contact with LCSS worker. Where required these children will be offered a place at school.
- Other children the school considers vulnerable. More children may be added to this group in response to concerns raised with the DSL. These children can be offered care at school if required.

In addition, the following groups have specific arrangements around contact and support from the school.

- Children of key workers who may attend school – contact via office email (checked daily), school phone message service (checked daily), headteachers email (checked daily).
- Children at home – contact via office email – checked daily

Plans for all groups will be reviewed every two weeks.

Attendance

The school is following the attendance guidance issued by government. Where a child is expected and does not arrive the school will follow our attendance procedure and make contact with the family. If contact is not possible by 9:30am the DSL must be informed. The DSL will attempt a range of methods to contact the parent, but if necessary, arrange a home visit by the school or another appropriate agency. A risk assessment will be undertaken to consider managing the implications of COVID-19 alongside other risks perceived to the child. The risk of COVID-19 **does not override** the duty on the school to ensure children and young people are safe.

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 (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 DSL about any concerns.

Risk online

Young people will be using the internet more during this period. The school may also use online approaches to deliver training or support. 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.

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements young people 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 safeguarding team.

Any staff or volunteers from outside our setting will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of the risks and know how to take action if they are concerned.

If you are practitioner and have concerns about another practitioner or volunteer, or you need to report them contact the Local Authority Designated Officer on **01865 815956**.

If necessary, the school will continue to follow the duty to refer to DBS any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, and to the Teacher Regulation Agency in line with paragraph 166 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 using the address Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk.

New children at the school

Where children join our school from other settings, we will require confirmation from the DSL whether they have a Safeguarding File or SEN statement/EHCP. This file must be provided securely **before** the child begins at our school and a call made from our DSL or a deputy to the placing school's DSL to discuss how best to keep the child safe. In some unusual circumstances this may not be possible and where appropriate additional measures and risk assessments will be put in place.

Information provided must include contact details for any appointed social worker and where relevant for the Virtual School Head. Safeguarding information about children placed in our school will be recorded on our safeguarding system, will be securely copied to the placing school DSL and will be securely returned to the placing school on completion of the child's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the child.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment in respect of any new information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know about the information. This will be recorded on our safeguarding recording system.

This policy has been remotely approved by Governors on 30.3.2020 and is available on the school website.