

Child protection during the COVID-19 measures

Annex to Safeguarding & Child Protection policy - version 2.0

Context

From week commencing 15/06/20 we will be welcoming back more children to our school. We have updated this policy to reflect the current government guidance on safeguarding our pupils during the pandemic.

This annex to our Child Protection policy sets out details of our safeguarding arrangements for:

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Version control and dissemination

This is version 2.0 of this annex. It will be reviewed by our designated safeguarding lead (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 here <http://www.acklamgrange.org.uk/acklam-grange/school-information/school-policies> and is made available to staff by policy alert

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.

Safeguarding priority

During the coronavirus response 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.

Current school position

We are currently offering provision for students whose parents are critical workers and those who are allocated a social worker (Child Protection Plans CPP, Children in Need CIN, Education Health and Care Plans EHCP and Children who are Looked After CLA.) In addition to this we have identified key students who may not have yet hit the threshold for referral but who are likely to require our support. This is staffed by a rota of Acklam Grange employed staff.

From 15th June and providing the Government and scientific advice continue to recommend this, we will be offering some face to face support for our Year 10 cohorts who are due to sit their GCSE examinations next year. Students have been allocated a pod of no more than 15 students, with two teaching staff allocated. Two pods will attend each day and will be supported by a dedicated wellbeing team member and behaviour support. Each Y10 student will attend school once per cycle (fortnight, unless they fall into the critical worker or vulnerable group.

The day has been scheduled to ensure that pod groups and critical worker/vulnerable groups do not mix. The provision will remain under constant review throughout the period of closure and we will liaise with Middlesbrough Local Authority if a time arises whereby it is no longer possible to safely operate this provision.

All staff and volunteers attending on site from outside our school will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of safeguarding risks and know how to act if they have concerns.

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. The current advice is below.

Risk assessments have been generated for all students with EHCPs and are under constant review as guidance changes. We continue to liaise with the Local Authority SEN team to ensure the right provision is in place for this cohort.

We continue to monitor all students who are allocated a social worker very closely through our extended safeguarding team, feeding back regularly to individual social workers and providing a weekly return to our schools safeguarding link.

MACH (Multi Agency Children's Hub) Update

As of the 1st July 2020, that the South Tees MACH will be disaggregated, and the Middlesbrough MACH will go live. The following information around the Middlesbrough MACH has been provided by the Head of Service, Amanda Richardson and is being shared for your information.

Who to Contact - The Middlesbrough Children’s Hub and the Assessment Teams operate Monday to Thursday from 8.30a.m to 5.00p.m and 8.30a.m. to 4.30p.m. on a Friday. Both teams are closed evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays. The Emergency Duty Team (EDT) provides cover during these times.

EDT 01642 524552 (for any enquiries outside of normal office hours)

MIDDLESBROUGH MACH 01642 726004 (if you have a new concern about a child/young person living in the Middlesbrough area)

MiddlesbroughMACH@middlesbrough.gov.uk

MiddlesbroughLADO@middlesbrough.gov.uk

CHILDREN’S SERVICES 01642 513600 (if a child/young person already has a social worker)
safeguardingcentraladmin@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Where to Go

Middlesbrough House
 50 Corporation Road
 Middlesbrough
 TS1 2RH

Roles and responsibilities

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

Whenever possible, our DSL or at least one deputy DSL will be available on site during the school day. Where this is not possible, we will:

- have a trained DSL or deputy DSL available by phone and/or online video

Where our DSL or a deputy DSL cannot be on site, then in addition to one of the above options we will also ensure a senior leader from the school takes responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site

The DSL or a deputy will provide support to teachers and pastoral staff to ensure that contact is maintained with children (and their families) who are not yet returning to school or college. Where possible staff will try and speak directly to children to help identify any concerns.

Core Safeguarding Team		
Name	Role	Contact
Lucy Gowland	Designated Safeguarding Lead	gowland.l@acklamgrange.org.uk
Athena Gika	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	gika.a@acklamgrange.org.uk
Natasha Pearson	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	pearson.n@acklamgrange.org.uk
Cath Dixon	Child Protection Officer	dixon.c9@acklamgrange.org.uk
Claire Martin	Student Welfare Officer	martin.c@acklamgrange.org.uk
Andrea Crawshaw	CEO/ Executive Headteacher	crawshaw.a@acklamgrange.org.uk
Michael Laidler	Headteacher	laidler.m@acklamgrange.org.uk
Extended Safeguarding Team		
Kirsty Lowes	Year Leader	lowes.k@acklamgrange.org.uk

Catherine Wilson	Year Leader	wilson.c@acklamgrange.org.uk
Anna Wass	Year Leader	wass.a@acklamgrange.org.uk
Katie Rayner	Year Leader	rayner.k@acklamgrange.org.uk
Sally Craster	External AP Lead	craster.c@acklamgrange.org.uk
Vicky Cairns	Education Welfare Officer	cairns.v@acklamgrange.org.uk
Mike Lodge	IT Service Manager	lodge.m@acklamgrange.org.uk
Zahid Mehmood	Prevent Lead	mehmood.z@acklamgrange.org.uk

AGS Duty Team

Two members of the safeguarding team (AGS Duty Team) will be available at all times. They will carry a safeguarding mobile phone and respond to calls between the hours of 9am and 3pm, Mon - Fri. Out of hours procedures to be followed outside of this time.

AGS duty team will monitor the safeguarding@acklamgrange.org.uk account and act upon any concerns raised.

Concerns and consequent referrals will be discussed by the AGS duty team before action is taken to ensure a consistent and logical approach to decision making is upheld.

A team meeting will be held weekly to discuss new referrals and monitoring of vulnerable students. This meeting will take place via Microsoft Teams.

School Counsellor, Julie Delany will continue to provide clinical supervision to members of the safeguarding team.

Duty Team Rota

	On Call	Priority 2
Monday	L. Gowland	C.Dixon
Tuesday	A.Gika	C.Martin
Wednesday	N.Pearson	L. Gowland
Thursday	C.Dixon	N.Pearson
Friday	C.Martin	A.Gika

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 or health 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.

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 discuss this with the social worker and explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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. 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.

We will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

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.

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.

Attendance

We will work with and support families and pupils to return to school where attendance is appropriate. 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 through various methods, such as telephone, FaceTime, Skype or by contact 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.

Where a vulnerable child does not take up their place, we will notify their social worker.

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 Child Protection procedures detailed in the full policy and advise the DSL of any concerns they have about any child, including those who are not attending school.

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 attending our school are dealt with thoroughly and efficiently and in accordance with our Allegations Against Staff Policy Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy - Appendix 3.

Staff and volunteers may identify new safeguarding concerns about a child as they see them in person again. In these circumstances staff will follow our Child Protection procedures as set out in the full policy.

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 school staff have received safeguarding training and have read Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education. They are also aware of the advice received from our three safeguarding partners, set out on page 2 of this annex.

When new staff are recruited or volunteers join us, they will receive a safeguarding induction in accordance with our Child Protection Policy.

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

For those staff, we will judge on a case-by-case basis the level of safeguarding induction required.

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, we will continue to follow our Safer Recruitment policy <http://www.acklamgrange.org.uk/acklam-grange/school-information/school-policies>

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.

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. We will continue to maintain our single central record (SCR) during these measures to ensure we have this awareness.

In accordance with our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, we will continue to discharge our legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. We will also consider making referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency.

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 with limited pupils on site and between those children who do not 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 Child Protection Policy 7.7

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 safeguarding and support children.

Our staff will follow the process for online safety set out in our Child Protection Policy.



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 follow the approach set out in this annex and report that concern to the DSL or to a deputy DSL.

We will continue to consider the safety of pupils when they are asked to work online. Our staff will continue to follow our Code of Conduct when engaging with pupils online and regular reminders are issued to staff and students regarding expectation of classroom standard behaviour.

Students are regularly reminded of the advice to keep themselves safe and are provided with appropriate reporting mechanisms for personal and online safety.

To support the diet of learning activities, particularly for key year groups (Y10 and 9) in the first instance, we are undertaking a trial of live learning experiences via Microsoft Teams. A full safeguarding review has been undertaken prior to trial and launch to ensure that the safety of our students remains at the centre of our activities. Safeguarding measures include:

- Camera access disabled for all students.
- Two staff members to be present in all live learning sessions.
- Chat function disabled and activated only when needed and by the teacher.
- Full training and clear expectations communicated with all students and staff.
- Staff briefed on how to deal with specific circumstances and report concerns.
- All live sessions are pre-planned, timetabled and coordinated by SLT.

Support		Support from School (Available term time within school hours)	
Emergency contacts Police: 999 CAMHS CRISIS LINE: 03000 132 000 Option 6		Worried about your school work? E-mail: Your subject teachers individually Remember that all communication is monitored and classroom standard behaviour and language is expected	
Kooth	Free counselling service for all students Sign up: www.kooth.com	Worried about yourself or a friend? Email: safeguarding@acklamgrange.org.uk General, non-urgent queries only – see emergency contacts for immediate concerns	
NSPCC	Email: help@nspcc.org.uk Phoneline: 0808 800 5000 Website: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/	Need to talk? 	
Childline	Phoneline: 0800 1111 Website: https://www.childline.org.uk	Email drop in with Mrs Delany Monday 10-11am (Term time) Email: timetotalk@acklamgrange.org.uk	
Samaritans	Email: jo@samaritans.org Phoneline: 116 123 Write to: Chris Freepost RSRB-KKBY-CYJK PO Box 9090 STIRLING FK8 2SA Website: https://www.samaritans.org		
Headstart	Facebook: facebook.com/headstart-boro Twitter: @HeadStart_Boro		
Youngminds	Website: https://youngminds.org.uk/		
CEOP	https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/		
UK Safer Internet Centre	Website: https://reportharmfulcontent.com		
Thinkuknow	Website: https://thinkyouknow.co.uk		

Mental Health

Negative experiences and distressing life events can affect the mental health of children and their parents. Mental health issues can bring about changes in a child's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, for example being fearful or withdrawn; aggressive or oppositional; or excessive clinginess.

As more pupils attend school from 15th June we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Every Y10 student will receive a return to school check in to focus on academic and wellbeing support. More intensive support will be available from the wellbeing team if it is deemed appropriate. Support maybe in the form of:

- General emotional wellbeing
- Rebalance programme
- ELSA
- School Counsellor support

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. As a minimum we will seek access to that child's EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or, for looked-after children, their personal education plan and know who the child's social worker (and, for looked-after children, who the responsible VSH is).

Ideally this will happen before a child arrives but where that is not possible it will happen as soon as reasonably practicable.

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

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment based on the information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff needs to know the information.

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. Details of that plan will be recorded in the safeguarding file for that child. It will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains current during these measures.

Our most vulnerable students have been RAG rated to highlight our present concern and planned action during closure.

GREEN - Universal Support

- To receive Be Kind email with details of a range of support available from other agencies
- Log in details for Kooth online service
- Access to JDE emotional wellbeing triage via email from w/c 20/04/20
- Usual staff vigilance and clear reporting mechanisms

AMBER (To receive GREEN support plus..)

- Assigned a Keyworker from the wider safeguarding team
- Weekly email check in from Keyworker
- Face to face contact with a member of the school staff if attending school OR
- Weekly phone call to parent/carer, including conversation with student. This should be a planned and pre-arranged call to ensure student is present.
- Weekly updates to MACH via Graeme Allison and direct to Social Worker
- Discussed at weekly safeguarding team meeting
- Emergency food parcels to be arranged for those most at need. Doorstep drops only
- Concerns raised immediately with other services and SAFER submitted if required.

RED (To receive GREEN and AMBER support plus...)

- Weekly home visit with the intention of seeing and speaking to the student and assessment of need.
- During lock down period restricting travel, home visits will cease and bi weekly telephone contact will replace this support.

In addition to this, we have identified key families at L2/3 who may go unsupported during this extended closure. These families will receive Amber support.

All Keyworker student contact will take place between Mon - Thursday, with home visits taking place on a Friday with the support of EWO Mrs Cairns.

Home Visits during school closure

- Home visits will be conducted on a Friday following Keyworker contact Mon-Thurs
- Home visits will be pre-arranged via a phone call on the same day. Family will be asked if there are any cases or symptoms of Coronavirus within the household. Home visits will NOT be undertaken if there are confirmed cases or symptoms within the household. Details will be passed via the weekly update to MACH.
- There will be two members of staff present for each home visit (VC plus Core Safeguarding Team member)
- Staff will not enter the property and will exercise safe distancing (2m) when speaking with parents/carers/children.
- Staff will use hand sanitiser before and after each doorstep contact. Hand washing prior to leaving and upon return to school is also essential.

We will **not** conduct home visits in the following circumstances and will refer direct to MACH for social care support.

- Home Visits will not be carried out at those households deemed to be **high risk**. This has been communicated with the Local Authority who will prioritise visits for these students.
- Families/households which have already been deemed to be unsafe for school staff home visits.
- Where we believe that a home visit will result in a violent response, ie following a phone call.
- Where we have been unable to make a pre-arranged apt and have confirmation that the household are symptom free.

Home visits will not be undertaken until advice is available to say that it is safe and reasonable to do so.

