

Schools Safeguarding Service Briefing – Interim Safeguarding Arrangements during Covid-19 Pandemic

Background

On 27th March the DfE published guidance to schools in fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities during the pandemic restrictions. This is available at –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

This is an appendix to our usual safeguarding policy during the school closure due to Covid 19

Belthorn Academy – Covid-19 Addendum to School Safeguarding Policy

KEY AREA	CONTENT
Maintaining links with safeguarding partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The school will check briefings from the DfE, Lancashire County Council , Blackburn with Darwen Council and local Safeguarding Advisers in LCC, BWD and MASH
Referrals to CSC and LADO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">LADO Services are operating during the pandemic, using Skype as necessary and so any concerns about harm to children are subject to consultation with LADO as in normal operating.LCC CSC can be contacted on 0300 123 6720 (no hot-line services) and cypreferrals@lancashire.gov.ukBWD CSC can be contacted on 01254 666400The Schools Safeguarding Advice Line and MASH Education Officers are still available and will be used for advice about threshold and wider safeguarding concerns.
Designated Safeguarding Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If a trained DSL is not available on site, then they can be contacted at home. 2 DSL's live within 5 minutes of school or a phone consultation can be carried out. All staff have the contact numbers for Miss M Egan and Mrs K Drugan who are Back up DSL's. We will make every effort for a DSL to be on site daily.If no DSL is available to school – staff can seek further guidance from the County Safeguarding advice line 01772 531196 (Lancashire)Children in our setting – we will ensure that if children from another school are being cared for on our site or vice versa then links will be in place between the respective DSL functions to share information.We will ensure arrangements to ensure that all staff, including volunteers and any adults who are not familiar with the setting know who to speak to if they have concerns about a child.We will have arrangements to ensure that all adults on school site understand the schools commitment to acting immediately in response to any safeguarding concerns
Supporting Vulnerable Children (allocated to a social worker)	<p>Ensure that there are arrangements in place to maintain the schools contribution to multi agency safeguarding and support for looked after children (CLA), Children In Need and children subject to Child Protection plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure that school can identify by name which children are vulnerable or should be in school - including how to contact them. School should request up-to-date contact details.Ensure that there are arrangements to identify which children have SWs and how to contact the SW – school will agree interim safeguarding plans with the SW.Ensure that school can identify which children are looked after and becoming looked after and the contact arrangements for the VHT.

Supporting potentially Vulnerable Children (not allocated to a social worker)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who are under the CAF/TAF process who are not in school have been contacted by the DSL at least once a week via email and phone contact. In some cases face to face contact has been made if children are part of a key worker family or school have offered the child a place. At the moment we have 4 families at the CAF/TAF stage and 1 family at the pre CAF stage. All staff know who these children are and communicate with the DSL if the children have not been accessing online work or been in contact with the class teacher via the Showbie app. We have no families who are subject to CP or CIN plan at the moment.
Peer on peer abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What additional arrangements are in place to prevent and respond to any concerns related to peer on peer abuse between children who do not ordinarily attend your school or are being looked after by adults who do not know them well We have no families who are being looked after by unfamiliar adults at present. We are aware of peer on peer abuse and each class teacher knows which children might be at risk. Our weekly virtual meeting will discuss any children we are concerned about but concerns can be raised at anytime through the DSL.
Online Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are children who are not physically attending school being safeguarding, taking into account a likely increase in online activity? Reminders have been sent out to all parents re monitoring online safety. This is a weekly newsletter item. How are parents being supported to help keep their children safe online at this time? The school is offering virtual support to parents who have any concerns. We can provide advice and signpost to relevant materials. Online safety guides are on the school website and parents will be signposted to them
Children with specific health needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is the school ensuring that you have the necessary information to meet children's health needs and that this is understood by those caring for them (allergies, asthma, epilepsy..etc) All children are being looked after by their own families if they are not in school. All parents have good knowledge of their children's medical needs and can safely manage them at home.
Safer Recruitment & use of Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What arrangements are in place to safely recruit and oversee volunteers with reference to para 167-172 of KCSIE? Ensure that new staff, staff relocated to the school, and volunteers understand the staff code of conduct Ensure that any volunteers have been individually risk-assessed We currently have no new staff or volunteers in school. Any new staff would be inducted according to our school policies and also subject to DBS checks.
Operation Encompass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools who receive an Operation Encompass notification in respect of a child who is not attending school should consider what further actions are required as they would in normal working, including speaking to parents and seeking advice from MASH / Schools Safeguarding Officer. If an operation encompass notification is received. We will contact the relevant MASH team for advice and contact the family by telephone.

Named person responsible for ensuring staff are aware of the above.

DSL NAME: Helen Rowan.

Back up DSL's: Melanie Egan, Kelly Drugan

DATE: 1.4.20

Named governor aware of the school/colleges interim arrangements

GOVERNOR NAME: Mrs Yvonne Brown

DATE: 1.4.20