

Child protection during the COVID-19 measures

Annex to Child Protection policy - version 1.0

Context

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual. Most children are no longer in a school setting and staff numbers have been affected by the outbreak.

Schools have been asked to provide care for children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

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 1.0 of this annex. It will be reviewed by our designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or a deputy DSL on a regular basis as circumstances continue to evolve or following updated Department for Education advice or guidance. It is available on the school website here <https://www.hollandhouse.org.uk/> and is made available to staff via email.

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 these challenging times 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 by email or phone
- no unsuitable people will be allowed to gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online.
- The staff will be employees of the school.

Current school position

Holland House School is currently closed to all Staff and Pupils apart from the Site Manager.

All staff- attending on site from outside our school will have completed safeguarding training and will be current employees.

Safeguarding partners' advice

We continue to work closely with our 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.

The school should seek advice directly from Child Protection School Liaison Officers (CPSLOs) if it has a concern about a child that is believed has suffered significant harm or is at risk of harm and therefore will warrant a child protection referral to children services. where the school is concerned that a child may be in imminent risk of significant harm, please call 999 for Police or make a Child protection Contact Referral by completing and submitting a Child Protection Contact Referral online.

Roles and responsibilities

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

- Our DSL and at least one deputy DSL will be available by phone and/or email

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) for child protection is __Raksha Dave_____

Contact details: email: _____rakshadave@hollandhouse.org.uk_____ tel:
07977994441.....

The deputy designated lead(s) is/are _Helen Stanton-Tonner_____

Contact details: email: ____head@hollandhouse.org.uk_____ tel:
07807069094.....

The deputy designated lead(s) is/are _____Emily Primrose-Brown_____

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.

Senior leaders in our school, especially the DSL (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are, and

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.

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

Where a child is expected but does not arrive at school remotely, 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 or email or by contacting a relative in the first instance. If contact cannot be made or if the DSL or a deputy DSL deems it necessary, we will 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 as described in the school's Child Protection 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 are dealt with thoroughly and efficiently and in accordance with our Allegations Against Staff Policy

Staff training and induction

For the duration of the COVID-19 measures, staff training will be kept up to date.

All current school staff have received safeguarding training and have read Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Peer on peer abuse

The School recognises 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. The School also recognises that abuse can still occur during a school closure.

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.

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. Important Safeguarding Reminder for Livestreaming Lessons

When staff plan to record or livestream lessons via an online platform, in order to assess any risks and take appropriate actions to minimise harm and protect themselves and Pupils, things that will be considered include:

a) Group Communications

- All communications with Pupils must be made using a School, not personal email and on a school device.
- Staff and Pupils must be wearing suitable clothing as must anyone in the background
- Staff and Pupil computers should preferably not be in bedrooms but in a communal area, where possible against a neutral background no photos or personal items visible. The blurring tool on the online platform is to be used if available.
- Live lessons should be kept to a reasonable length of time and should not exceed the normal length of the lesson.
- Language must be professional and appropriate.

(b) Additional Advice for 1:1 Communication

- There should be no 1:1 live cam teaching without a written permission from the parent. Group chats are acceptable.
- A live chat should be time and date logged, recorded and backed up elsewhere so that the video can be reviewed if necessary - there is a mechanisms for doing this on Teams where a log is kept automatically.
- If a staff member needs to contact a parent, use 141 in front of the number so they can't access the staff member's personal telephone number. Staff must be mindful of data protection and delete any parent numbers.