

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.

The current school position and local advice

Greenside are working with the 0-25 team to ensure that those who are vulnerable, and remaining at home, are supported. We have open lines of communication with the 0-25 team, the local authority and the parents. Class leads are in regular contact with the parents and will alert the DSL if they become aware of any issues.

Reporting arrangements

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

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Dawn Brown 01438 315356**
dawn.brown@greenside.herts.sch.uk

The Deputy DSLs are: **Dave Victor, Alex Tomkins, Luke Simonds, Michelle Bailey**

The school's approach ensures the DSL or a deputy is always on site while the school is open. In the unusual circumstance this is not possible the DSL or Deputy DSL will be contactable and the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team will email all staff by 9am to advise they are acting in

an on-site safeguarding role together with contact details for the DSL or Deputy DSL.

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:

Marisa Snook: marisa.snook@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Andy Lawrence: andy.lawrence@hertfordshire.gov.uk

0-25 admin team - 01438 843808

Identifying vulnerability

We have undertaken an exercise to identify the most vulnerable children. Working in partnership with the 0-25 team we have completed information relating to the vulnerable learners at Greenside.

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

- Looked After Children – liaison with the foster family/virtual school/SW
- Previously Looked After Children – liaison with the family
- Children subject to a child protection plan – liaison with 0-25
- Children who have, or have previously had, a social worker. There is an expectation that children with a social worker could 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 (or a risk assessment means there are issues that place the child or school staff at increased risk. This could be - inability to apply social distancing guidance, need for intimate care requiring PPE, specific staff who are unavailable, or behaviour that may place themselves or others at risk). Greenside are working with the 0-25 team to ensure that those with the greatest need are supported, and for many that may be to stay at home.

- Greenside are working with the 0-25 team to ensure that those with the greatest need are supported, and for many that may be to stay at home. Children with an EHCP – all learners at Greenside have an EHCP. We have followed the Governments advice that those who can stay at home, should stay at home. Again this has been done in partnership with the 0-25 team and the families. At Present we have the capacity for 20 learners to be onsite at any one time (current provision is for 20).
- 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.

Each of these children has an individual plan which has been shared with other agencies involved in their care, including where appropriate their social worker and the Virtual School Head for Looked After and previously Looked After Children.

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

- Children of key workers who may attend school – parents have been consulted and where possible, the learners are attending school.
- Children at home – class leads are in contact regularly

This is reviewed regularly as parents contact the school and at the end of each 3 week rota for staffing.

Holiday arrangements

Greenside are continuing to provide places for children over the Easter break

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.

- 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. School staff have been instructed not to use video conferencing/face timing apps at this time to work with learners at home unless by express permission from the Head Teacher.
- 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 with peers, the school, other education offers they may access and the wider internet community. We have set out the school's approach, including the sites children will be asked to access and set out who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online. Parents have been offered the following links:
 - [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
 - www.thegrid.org.uk - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
 - [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
 - [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
 - [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers
- 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](#).

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.

We have confirmed the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged Paula Hayden - paula.hayden@hertfordshire.gov.uk .

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.

Our child protection procedures hold strong:

- No volunteers will be onsite during the G-19 provision. In any case, volunteers may not be left unsupervised with children until suitable checks have been undertaken. People supervising volunteers must be themselves in regulated activity, able to provide regular, day to day supervision and reasonable in all circumstances to protect the children.

- The school will undertake a written risk assessment on the specific role of each volunteer to decide whether to obtain an enhanced DBS check (with barred list information) for all staff and volunteers new to working in regulated activity in line with [DBS guidance](#).
- When undertaking ID checks on documents for the DBS it is reasonable to [initially check these documents online](#) through a live video link and to accept scanned images of documents for the purpose of applying for the check. The actual documents will then be checked against the scanned images when the employee or volunteer arrives for their first day.

New children at the school

We are not anticipating taking children from other settings at this time. 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 circumstance this may not be possible. 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 07/04/2020 and is available on the school website at www.greenside.herts.sch.uk