

Addendum 2 to Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

University of Wolverhampton Multi Academy Trust

COVID-19 School Closure Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Fairway Primary Academy

Author	Revision Number	Review Date
S Malhotra	01 - 28.05.2020	September 2020

Policy adopted by the Trust on:	Date:	29.05.2020
Received by the Chair of the LGB/IAB:	Date:	29.05.2020

Table of Contents

1. Context.....	4
2. Disclosures.....	5
3. Designated Safeguarding Lead.....	6
4. Safer Recruitment.....	7
5. Domestic Violence	7
6. Mental Health	8
7. Attendance Monitoring.....	8
8. Support from UWMAT	8

1. Context

From week commencing 1st June 2020, we expect to welcome back more children to Fairway Primary Academy. A large proportion of our children will still receive their education remotely; this addendum (2) to the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy includes all children and young people and sets out what arrangements and requirements are in place to keep children safe in school and those not physically attending school.

It is important to remember whether our school is open or not, staff should still comply with safeguarding arrangements already in place and DSL's will ensure that all staff are aware of the systems for reporting and provide local safeguarding updates.

This policy addendum is based on DfE guidance issued on 20th May 2020 [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#) and should be read and understood in conjunction with the school Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy; the policy addendum (1) dated 2nd April 2020; risk assessments, health and safety requirements, Code of Conduct, the E-Safefy Policy, and the principles set out in the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education [KCSIE 2019](#).

This addendum and all linked policies and procedures will be reviewed regularly to ensure they continue to meet the needs of our children during the coronavirus crisis.

The way our school is operating in response to coronavirus continues to be different to business as usual. However, as more children return, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in our school has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- the school's DSL or Deputy DSL should be available at all times or contactable and staff must know who this is on a daily basis and how to contact them
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

The safeguarding of children remains our priority and everyone's responsibility. Where an adult has concerns about a child they should report this immediately to the DSL or the Deputy DSL using the school's established reporting system. As a greater number of children return to school having spent many weeks at home, children may:

- have anxieties that will cause them to be distressed at being back at school
- have mental health concerns
- have had significant changes in their routine and will struggle to adjust back to being at school

- have had access to materials on-line that are either age inappropriate or possibly have been exposed to other adults who wish to groom children for exploitive and/or abusive purposes
- have suffered abuse from the adults in their house
- have witnessed domestic abuse and violence or have been abusive to their parents/carers or siblings (peer on peer abuse)
- have experienced abuse (online, physical, emotional, sexual) from their siblings or their peers

It is the responsibility of everyone to be familiar with and act upon the specific risk assessments and plans that are in place to keep children and young people safe in school during the coronavirus crisis.

All staff must be familiar with, understand and act in accordance with the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, including the two COVID 19 addendums.

The DSL (or 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. Where possible staff should try and speak directly to children to help identify any concerns. Staff should make calls from the school site via school phones and devices. Where staff have to use personal phones to make calls, they should withhold their personal number and not store any child/student contact details on the phone.

2. Disclosures

We are clear in our understanding and practice that staff and volunteers may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they see them in person following partial school closures. Our school system for recording and monitoring vulnerable children remains in place. The DSL (or deputy) will ask parents and carers to advise them of any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that they should be aware of before a child returns.

All adults must be vigilant to the likelihood that there will be a greater number of disclosures; some of these may not be verbal. If a child/student discloses to an adult in school, the adult must respond in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy:

The following key principles should be followed:

- Don't panic – remain calm and reassuring in your manner, listen.
- Give the child your full attention to demonstrate you are listening carefully and taking the information seriously.
- Let the child take his/her time, go at his/her own pace and use his/her own words.
- If he/she needs further encouragement remember TED (Tell me, Explain, Describe)
- Reassure him/her that he/she did the right thing by telling someone, and that he/she has been brave in doing so.

- Assure him/her that it is not his/her fault and you will do your best to help.
- Let him/her know that, to ensure that he/she will be safe, you will need to tell someone else.
- Let him/her know what you are going to do next at an age appropriate level.
- Don't make promises to keep a disclosure a secret

As soon as the child is safe, ensure the child's words (or actions) are recorded as accurately as possible and this is shared immediately with the DSL on site or senior member of staff who is responsible for safeguarding due to the DSL's absence (see section below about DSL on site). Ensure that the information is recorded according to the school's policies and procedures.

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead

We recognise that DSLs (and deputies) will need to have more time to support staff and children regarding new concerns (and referrals as appropriate) as more children return.

Wherever possible, the DSL or Deputy DSL will be on site and can be accessed by all staff. He/she will be available to act on concerns as these become apparent, including to support partner agencies should information be required to be shared. Should it not be possible for the DSL or any deputies to be on site, he/she will be contactable by phone and email or similar virtual means.

DSL (and deputies) will ensure that MyConcern and other associated safeguarding policies and protocols have been updated since the start of the lockdown; 23rd March 2020 and will continue to ensure that this record keeping is kept up to date.

The DSL is expected to keep abreast of local and national changes and trends through their local authority, their local safeguarding board, partner agencies and national organisations such as the NSPCC.

The DSL will ensure that all staff and volunteers receive information that enables them to undertake their safeguarding role in school. This is likely to be through the sharing of information, through email and other forms of communication. The DSL will also ensure that staff have enough information to enable them to fulfil their specific roles in school, (recognising this role may be different due to COVID 19). Staff will ensure that they seek further support if they feel that they need greater information or support. The school website www.fairwayprimary.com will be updated to ensure that key documents, referenced in this addendum can be found.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter the school, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. A copy of our up to date Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy including coronavirus addendums will support this process as will part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 [KCSIE](#).

The DSL will ensure that all staff are updated with relevant safeguarding information regarding individual children to enable them to effectively fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.

Staff at our school will be made aware on a daily basis of the arrangements for DSL contact, and the named senior member of staff. All staff are reminded of their Whistleblowing responsibilities should they have a concern about the behaviour of a colleague, including the Headteacher. This must be shared according to the current Whistleblowing and safeguarding policies.

The Trust will provide supervision sessions for DSL's and deputies which may take the form of an online meeting.

4. Safer Recruitment

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the workforce or gain access to our children. When recruiting new staff, Fairway Primary Academy will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for the setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) [KCSIE](#).

There is no requirement to obtain a new DBS check for returning staff who have continued to be employed, but have not been working in regulated activity during partial school closures. If for any reason the Headteacher has concerns about the individual, she/he may obtain a new check in the usual way.

Our school will continue to follow its legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Visiting contractors or agency staff will still be required to have demonstrated the appropriate levels of checks as detailed in Part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education [KCSIE](#).

5. Domestic Violence

Our school staff are aware and stay alert to domestic abuse, and that the potential for domestic abuse and violence to go unseen is high. We know that many victims will have reduced or limited opportunities to share what is happening to them. We are mindful that some children, whether returning to school, or remaining at home, will have suffered the impact of domestic abuse and we will be vigilant in our professional curiosity and ask those additional questions.

There are a range of resources available to support victims which are available on our website www.fairwayprimary.com

6. Mental Health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current pandemic, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Our staff are made aware of this when considering the setting and expectations of pupils' work whether they are learning at home or returning to school on or after 1st June 2020.

The DfE's [guidance on mental health and behaviour in schools here](#), sets out how mental health issues can bring about changes in a young person's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, and that can be an indication of an underlying problem. Support for pupils and students in the current circumstances can include existing provision in school (although this may be delivered in different ways, for example over the phone) or from specialist staff or support services. For wider information about context the government guidance for the public on [Mental health related to the Covid-19](#) provides a valuable resource which parents can access through the school website www.fairwayprimary.com along with [Mentally Healthy Schools](#) and [Supporting pupils wellbeing](#)

7. Attendance Monitoring

Fairway Primary Academy will resume taking an attendance register in accordance with the government guidance issued on 28th May 2020 [Recording attendance during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) which reflects the changes in how attendance should be recorded following the reopening of schools from 1 June 2020. Staff will use the codes suggested in the document to record attendance and absence in the attendance register and submit daily attendance figures using the [educational setting status form](#) by midday everyday.

8. Support from UWMAT

The Trust's Safeguarding Lead, Shila Malhotra, Hub Lead Headteachers, Trust Executive Headteacher and the HR Team will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the Headteacher and her/his team to ensure that provision for all children is as safe as possible during the coronavirus crisis.

UWMAT reserves the right to amend this policy prior to the review date based on Government guidance during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Addendum 2 of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

28/05/2020