

# Jack Tizard School

## Child protection & safeguarding appendix : COVID-19



<b>Approved by:</b>	Full Governing Body	<b>Date:</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
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<b>Review Frequency</b>	as needed, depending on the pandemic situation.		

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### Scope and definitions

This addendum applies from the start of the autumn term 2020.

It sets out changes to our normal child protection policy in light of coronavirus, and should be read in conjunction with that policy. Unless covered here, our normal child protection policy continues to apply.

This addendum is subject to change, in response to any new or updated guidance the government may publish. We will keep it under review as set out in section 15 below.

In this addendum, where we refer to measures to protect pupils who are at home, this means those who are learning at home for reasons to do with coronavirus – for example, due to clinical and/or public health advice, such as if there’s a local lockdown or if they need to self-isolate.

## **Core safeguarding principles**

We will follow the statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education.

We will always have regard for these important safeguarding principles:

- The best interests of children must come first
- If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should act on it immediately
- A designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy should be available at all times (see section 4 for details of our arrangements)
- It's essential that unsuitable people don't enter the school workforce or gain access to children
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online

## **Reporting concerns**

All staff and volunteers must continue to act on any concerns they have about a child immediately. It is still vitally important to do this, both for children at school and those at home.

All concerns must be raised to the Designated Safeguarding lead (Francesca Smith) and in her absence, to the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Sarah Melman) This should be accompanied by full verbatim written details on an incident form. Where someone is working from home this can be sent electronically.

As a reminder, all staff should continue to work with, and support, children's social workers, where they have one, to help protect vulnerable children.

## **DSL (and deputy) arrangements**

The risk assessment for Jack Tizard outlines that the school will only remain open if we have someone on site trained to level 3 DSL level within the last 2 years.

Details of those currently in receipt of level 3 training are:

Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, School Nurse and Pool Manager

## **Working with other agencies**

We will continue to work with Children's Social Care, with Virtual School heads for looked-after and previously looked-after children, and with any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners, to help keep children safe.

We will continue to update this addendum where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- Our 3 local safeguarding partners
- The local authority, about children with education, health and care (EHC) plans;
- The local authority designated officer (LADO) and Children's Social Care on reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need

## **Monitoring attendance**

We will resume taking our attendance register. We will also follow guidance from the Department for Education on how to record attendance and what data to submit.

All pupils of compulsory school age will be expected to attend school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the pupil has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is unable to attend because of clinical and/or public health advice, is absent for a necessary religious observance).

Where any child we expect to attend school doesn't attend, or stops attending, we will:

- Follow up on their absence with their parents or carers, through our standard first day response protocols. See appendix 1
- Notify their social worker, where they have one
- Where the absence is due to parental anxiety around Covid, we will work with the parents to make sure we have a plan for weekly welfare calls in place and offer as much support for both care and education as possible, whilst working toward a return to the school site.

We will make arrangements with parents and carers to make sure we have up-to-date emergency contact details, and additional contact details where possible.

## **Peer-on-peer abuse**

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education when managing reports and supporting victims of peer-on-peer abuse.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately – about both children attending school and those at home.

## **Concerns about a staff member, supply teacher or volunteer**

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately – whether those concerns are about staff/supply teachers/volunteers working on site or remotely.

We will continue to refer adults who have harmed or pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

We will continue to refer potential cases of teacher misconduct to the Teaching Regulation Agency. We will do this using the email address [Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk) for the duration of the COVID-19 period, in line with government guidance.

## **Safeguarding all children**

Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time potentially puts all children at greater risk.

Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on concerns immediately in line with the procedures set out in Section 3 above

### **Children returning to school**

The class teacher will do all they reasonably can to find out from parents and carers whether there have been any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that they should be aware of before children return. Where required, a re-admission meeting will be held if there have been substantial changes i.e. a child has had surgery. The Senior Team and Multi-Disciplinary Team members will be included in this.

The DSL (and deputy) will be given time to support staff and children regarding new concerns (and referrals as appropriate) as children return to school.

Staff and volunteers will be alert to any new safeguarding concerns as they see pupils in person, where proportionate to do so.

### **Children at home**

The school will maintain contact with children who are at home. Teachers and/or family link worker will call at least weekly if home visits are not taking place. They will use school phones and devices to make calls home. Or, if necessary they will use personal phones but they will withhold their personal number.

Staff will look out for signs such as:

- No contact from children or families
- Seeming more withdrawn during any home visits, class check-ins or video calls

### **Online safety**

#### **In school**

We will continue to have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place in school.

#### **Outside school**

Where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow our existing guidance, set out in the Staff Handbook, IT Acceptable Use Policy and the Remote Learning Policy.

Staff will continue to be alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm online, and act on any concerns immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out in section 3 of this addendum

### **Working with parents and carers**

We will make sure parents and carers:

- Are aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of staying safe online
- Know what our school is asking children to do online, where relevant, including what sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school
- Are aware that they should only use reputable online companies or tutors if they wish to supplement the teaching and resources our school provides
- Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online

## **Mental health**

### **Children returning to school**

Staff and volunteers will be aware of the possible effects that this period may have had on pupils' mental health. They will look out for behavioural signs, including pupils being having attachment issues, being fearful, withdrawn, aggressive, oppositional or excessively clingy, to help identify where support may be needed.

### **Children at home**

Where possible, we will continue to offer our current mental health support for all pupils.

We will also signpost pupils, parents/carers and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health. Staff and volunteers will be alert to mental health concerns in children who are at home, and act on these immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out in section 3 of this addendum

## **Staff and volunteer recruitment**

We continue to recognise the importance of robust safer recruitment procedures, so that staff and volunteers who work in our school are safe to work with children.

We will continue to follow our safer recruitment procedures, and part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

When carrying out DBS checks and right to work checks, we will follow the latest guidance from the DBS, Home Office and Immigration Enforcement as appropriate (for example, with regards to the process for verifying documents). We will inform candidates about the intended process as soon as reasonably practicable.

We will continue to do our usual checks on new volunteers, and do risk assessments to decide whether volunteers who aren't in regulated activity should have an enhanced DBS check, in accordance with paragraphs 183-188 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

## **Safeguarding induction and training**

We will make sure staff and volunteers are aware of changes to our procedures and local arrangements.

New staff and volunteers will continue to receive a safeguarding induction in line with the expectations of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

## **Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the 3 local safeguarding partners, the LA or Department for Education is updated

## **Links with other policies**

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Child protection policy
- Staff code of conduct in the Staff Handbook
- IT acceptable use policy
- Health and safety policy
- Online safety policy
- Attendance Protocol