

Annex to Barrow Hills' Child Protection Policy

Changes to our Child Protection Policy resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak – January 2021

Response to COVID-19

There have been significant changes at Barrow Hills School 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 (Mr Paul Crisell), Deputy DSL, Head or LADO in line with our established safeguarding procedure.**

We will endeavour to ensure that the DSL or Deputy DSL is available on site. If this is not possible then

- the DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video, for example working from home
- a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

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

The School will reopen in January for vulnerable children and children of [critical workers](#). The needs of all children and young people, their views and those of their parents and carers are being actively monitored. Risk assessments will be undertaken where appropriate, to include

- the potential health risks to all members of the School community and those resident on site from COVID-19, bearing in mind any underlying health conditions. This must be on an individual basis with advice from an appropriate health professional where required
- the risk to pupils if some or all elements of their Early Help plan, or in-house equivalent, cannot be delivered at all, and the risk if they cannot be delivered in the normal manner or in the usual setting
- the ability of the individual's parents or home to ensure their health and care needs can be met safely

(adapted from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>)

Reporting arrangements

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

All 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 and the LADO office are unchanged:

Surrey County Council Children's Services 0300 470 9100
Multi-Agency Partnership 01483 517 898
(emergency out-of-hours team)
Single Point of Access (C-SPA) csmash@surreycc.gov.uk
NSPCC helpline: 0808 800 5000 or email: help@nspcc.org.uk

For allegations against staff working in schools:
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
0300 123 1650 (option 3) | LADO@surreycc.gov.uk

Should a child in the School's view be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond, the school will immediately follow the safeguarding children partnership escalation procedure. In these cases, escalation would be to the senior officers:

Executive director for nursing, quality and safeguarding in health
Chief Executive Officer in Surrey County Council
Chief Constable in Surrey Police
Independent Review Service irunit.duty@surreycc.gov.uk
Child Protection Unit cpunit.duty@surreycc.gov.uk

Identifying vulnerability

Using the school 'Pastoral Weekly' document as a basis, the Safeguarding Committee will identify those children most likely to be affected by the current crisis and/or a prolonged stay at home. The "Levels of Concern" document has been updated accordingly.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory from the start of the new School year, except where statutory exemptions apply. The School therefore expects parents or carers to inform us if a child is unable to attend with the reason.

Attendance is recorded each day and passed on to DfE as directed.

The school will follow the [attendance guidance issued by the government](#). Where a child is expected and does not arrive (at School or online) the School will follow our attendance procedure and make contact with the family. If contact is not possible by 9:30am the DSL must be informed. The DSL will attempt a range of methods to contact the parent.

The school will also follow the attendance procedure if contact proves impossible with children at home through close liaison and cooperation with external agencies including police and social services.

Staff will be made aware of increased risk.

The pressures on children and their families at this time are significant, for example financial or health anxiety. Staff will be aware of the mental health of both [children](#) and their [parents](#), and must inform the DSL of any concerns.

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements young people could be at greater risk of abuse from staff. 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 (as above and in the Safeguarding Directory).

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 (as above).

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.

New staff or volunteers

Any new staff must have an induction before starting or on their first morning with the DSL or deputy. They must read the school child protection policy, the behaviour policy, the whistleblowing policy and the code of conduct. The DSL or deputy will ensure new recruits know who to contact if worried about a child and ensure the new starters are familiar with the child protection procedure.

If staff or volunteers are transferring in from other registered education or childcare settings for a temporary period to support the care of children, we will seek evidence from their setting that:

- the member of staff has completed relevant safeguarding training in line with other similar staff or volunteers,
- they have read Part I and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education, and
- where the role involves regulated activity and the appropriate DBS check has been undertaken by that setting we will undertake a written risk assessment to determine whether a new DBS would need to be undertaken. It may be in these exceptional times we can rely on the DBS undertaken by their setting.

Our child protection procedures hold strong:

- 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.
- The school will update the Single Central Record of all staff and volunteers working in the school, including those from other settings. This will include the risk assessment around the DBS. A record will be kept by the HR Department of who is working in the school each day.

New children at the school

For any new children 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 circumstances 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.

Contingency planning for outbreaks

In the event of a local outbreak, the Public Health England health protection team or local authority may advise a school or number of schools to close temporarily to help control transmission.

There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area and financial or health anxiety. These areas are being considered in the context of any work for children to undertake at home; including recognising the impact of online learning – see below.

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a school closure or partial closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse, including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision. Extra care will be taken where groups have mixed age, developmental stages, are attending other schools as an interim measure and similar. When making contact with these families our staff will ask about relationships between learners.

The issue of peer-on-peer abuse is well addressed by staff through INSET during the year and forms part of the School's ongoing PSHE curriculum. Provision will be made to include PSHE in the remote learning curriculum.

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.

- All online contact with children will be recorded in their relevant Google Classroom. Any session that is not recorded must be reported to the DSL. All recordings are kept by IT Support.
- The school continues to ensure [appropriate filters and monitors are in place](#) for all applications used for remote learning. 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 issued a code of conduct for remote learning, 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.
- Staff have read the [20 safeguarding considerations for livestreaming](#) prior to delivering any live streamed sessions.

Barrow Hills pupils have received guidance on keeping safe online and know how to raise concerns with the school. During this time of remote learning, the School will not ask a child to interact with anyone from outside the School community.

In case of concern, other child-protection resources to contact include:

[Childline \(0800 1111\)](#)

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) and

[CEOP](#).

In addition, please make a note of the following resources to keep children safe when online:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - 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](#).

For additional guidelines including our Risk Assessment please visit our [website](#).

This policy has been remotely approved by Governors on [date] and is available on the school website at [link](#).

Paul Crisell - Deputy Head & Designated Safeguarding Lead

January 2021