



## Eastbrook School

### Addendum to Safeguarding Policy – April 2020

#### COVID 19 Response

This policy is an addendum to our existing Safeguarding Policy, which is available on the school website. This policy sets out key information regarding safeguarding during the COVID 19 measures.

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#### Context

Schools are currently operating differently in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19). Schools are currently only providing care for children who are vulnerable and for children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. Our school is open for this purpose during this time. Children who do not fall within this category should remain at home with appropriate care and they are provided with online learning activities and materials.

We continue to work with our Safeguarding Partners during this time and follow advice given by the Local Authority. We will continue to work with other agencies and professionals, such as Social Care, Police and Early Help, as necessary. Any concerns will be reported in the usual way, by contacting the MASH Team and submitting a multi-agency referral form (MARF) as necessary.

## **Updates**

This information will be regularly reviewed and updated in line with the guidance provided by the Government and Department for Education. Information, including any updates, is available on the school website and will be circulated to staff via email.

## **Safeguarding**

The safeguarding and welfare of our pupils continues to be our priority, whether they are attending school or whether they are at home, and our existing safeguarding policy remains in place.

Reporting concerns:

Staff will continue to report any safeguarding concerns via our online digital reporting system and to the member of the Senior Leadership Team on site. All concerns will be actioned immediately. The DSL and Deputy DSLs remain contactable during this period.

Only staff members who are working during the crisis will be allowed on site. Any concerns regarding the conduct of staff will be reported to the Headteacher, as per the existing safeguarding policy. Any concerns regarding the Headteacher are reported to the Executive Headteacher and Chair of Governors.

## **Key Safeguarding Staff**

Strategic Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Kyri Mingay
Assistant Headteacher (Deputy DSL) - Secondary:	Neil Tobias
Deputy Headteacher (Deputy DSL) – Primary:	Andrew Pasterfield
Headteacher – Secondary:	Paul Frith
Headteacher – Primary:	Evan Hollows

The roles and responsibilities of all staff remain as stated in our Safeguarding Policy.

## **Vulnerable Children**

The term ‘vulnerable children’ refers to children who have a Social Worker. This includes children that are in the care of the Local Authority (LAC), children subject to a Child Protection Plan and CIN Plan, under Assessment and children with EHC plans. Some children may also be deemed as vulnerable if they potentially need social care support. The DSL and Deputy DSLs have identified these children and offered a school place as necessary.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend school, except where they have an underlying health condition, which may place them at risk. We encourage all vulnerable children to attend school where possible. If a parent or carer makes the decision not to send their child to school, this will be discussed with the Social Worker and a plan agreed.

All vulnerable children have been risk-assessed and if the decision was made for them to remain at home, a telephone call will be made on at least a weekly basis to ensure the safety and welfare of the child, and to provide support as needed. The information regarding these checks is then shared with the Local Authority.

Children with an EHC Plan have been risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents/carers. A school place will have been offered but many children can remain safely at home. It may be that certain services can be provided at home, e.g. therapists or clinicians who provide essential services. Any children with EHC plans who decide not to attend school, are telephoned on at least a weekly basis at home to check on their safety and welfare. The information regarding these checks is then shared with the Local Authority.

### **Attendance**

The school is taking an attendance register for pupils who are attending school, and this is shared with the Local Authority and Department for Education.

The Social Worker is notified if a child does not take up their offered school place.

If a child is expected to attend school but does not arrive, the family will be contacted using the contacts on the school system. If we are unable to contact the family, a letter will be sent home and the Social Worker will be informed. If the Social Worker is not contactable or there is no Social Worker involved, the MASH Team will be notified, and a referral submitted as necessary.

### **Safer Recruitment and Movement of Staff**

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. The Senior Leadership Team are aware of any staff that are on site working during the closures. All staff have an enhanced DBS check.

If any staff are entering the school site due to schools joining or amalgamating because of COVID 19 measures, information regarding those staff members will be shared between schools, including ID and enhanced DBS checks.

If any new staff are recruited, we will follow our existing safeguarding and safer recruitment policies and procedures.

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

We will continue to maintain our Single Central Register to reflect any changes to staffing as necessary.

### **Peer on Peer Abuse**

Abuse can occur between children and this is taken very seriously. Our safeguarding procedures regarding peer-on-peer abuse remain in place, as per our safeguarding policy. We recognise that this can occur during school closures, whether the children are attending or not attending school.

If a staff member has a concern regarding peer-on-peer abuse, they will report this to the SLT member on site and record this on our digital recording system. This will be reported to the Social Worker, or a referral will be made to the MASH Team if a Social Worker is not already involved.

### **Online Safety**

We recognise there is likely to be an increase in online activity, including the use of gaming and social media during this time. Our filtering systems within school will remain in place and parents/carers have been provided with advice and guidance regarding online safety.

If a staff member is concerned about a child and online safety, they will report this to the SLT member on site and record this on our digital recording system. Any concerns will be actioned immediately.

### **New Joiners at the School**

Children may join our school from other settings. If this is the case, the DSL and SENCO will request information from the other setting, prior to joining or as soon as reasonably possible, including safeguarding, medical, SEN or other relevant welfare information. This includes relevant documents, such as Child Protection Plans and EHC Plans, and the name of the child's Social Worker and any other agencies involved. This is to ensure the agreed plan of support can continue. A risk assessment will be undertaken, and a plan agreed. Relevant information will be shared with staff as necessary.

### **Support**

We recognise that these are unprecedented and difficult times. Therefore, there may be an increased need for support by our children and families.

We will support families who have experienced a loss or bereavement during this time and will liaise with relevant agencies, such as Early Help, Educational Psychology Team, and Child Bereavement UK, to offer practical support as needed.

We continue to provide support to families who are eligible for Free School Meals and those who are finding it difficult to buy essentials for their family, by providing food vouchers and food parcels, in partnership with our local food banks.

A leaflet has been provided to all families indicating many outside agencies and organisations that can offer support during this time, including mental health support and online safety advice.

We continue to provide support to any families that may need it, in any way reasonably possible during this time.

We will continue to update our school website with any information.

For further information, please email:

[safeguarding@eastbrookschoo.org](mailto:safeguarding@eastbrookschoo.org)