

COVID-19 Annexe May 2020

Addendum to Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in advance of the re-opening of Wivelsfield Primary School from 1/6/20

Wivelsfield Primary School already have a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (September 2019). This addendum supports the planned return of children from Monday 1st June 2020.

Concerning Children

Staff may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they see them in person following partial school closures. Concerns need to be recorded promptly and effectively using the schools' electronic recording systems. Staff returning to school who have not been on site since March and need to renew best practice in recording welfare concerns, need to speak with a member of the DSL team who will be able to support them. The DSL team anticipate the number of concerns being recorded will continue to escalate throughout the phasing period; as more children return, there will be more concerns to consider.

It is important the relevant safeguarding and welfare information held on all children (including returning children) remains accurate. Staff should be doing all they reasonably can to ask parents and carers to advise them of any changes regarding welfare, health and well-being that they should be aware of before a child returns.

DSL/DDSL Arrangements

From 1/6/20 it is anticipated the DSL/DDSL will be available on site each day. The DSL and DDSL at Ditchling Primary School will continue to provide support should the DSL or DDSL be unavailable.

Peer on Peer Abuse

The schools will continue to manage any report of peer on peer abuse and support victims using the principles set out in KCSiE 2019 (Part 5). The phased return of pupils will mean operating in different circumstances (different hub groupings to enable social distancing, for example) and a revised process may be necessary for managing any identified peer on peer abuse. Staff will be reminded of any actions needed because of any child being on a risk reduction plan.

Updating Staff

Staff on site will be reminded about what they should do if they have any concerns about a staff member or volunteer who may pose a risk to children.

Advice

The schools will continue to respond to safeguarding advice received from the Government and the Local Authority; update advice will continue to lead the school's local arrangements. Any updated advice received from the LA regarding children with EHC plans and LAC pupils will be followed robustly.

Attendance

Vulnerable children are encouraged to attend where it is appropriate for them (that is, where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household, and/or following a risk assessment for children with an EHC plan). Attendance of vulnerable children and returning children will be monitored robustly. If they choose not to attend, welfare checks will be made in line with LA guidance.

Supporting children not in school

Wivelsfield Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils. As well as families allocated a social worker, where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person. Where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate. The school will share online safety, emotional well-being and other safeguarding messages through letters or the website.

Staff Training and Safeguarding Induction

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and read Part 1 of KCSiE. These staff will be made aware of any new local arrangements. New staff who have been recruited and start work in Term 6 will receive a safeguarding induction.

Mental Health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as COVID-19, can affect the mental health of children and their parents. The schools will ensure that appropriate support is in place for them. This will vary according to the needs of the child/parent (over the phone, for example). Teachers will continue to be aware of the impact the current circumstances can have on the mental health of those pupils who are continuing to work from home, including when setting expectations of children's work.

Online Safety (see also Online Safety Policy Covid 19 update)

As more children return it will be important that the schools continues to provide a safe online environment for those who remain at home. The schools will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children. LA support will ensure that each school has the technical knowledge and support to maintain safe IT arrangements.

The schools will continue to do all that they reasonably can to keep all children safe, including those who continue to remain at home. It is important that all staff who interact with children continue to look out for signs that a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with via the schools' Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and the Online Safety Policy. Referrals should continue to be made to children's social care where appropriate.

Staff are expected to follow the school's Staff Code of Conduct

The schools will continue to be in regular contact with all of its parents and carers. These communications will continue to be used to reinforce the importance of children being safe online.

24th May 2020