**Extra arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection during the COVID-19 school closure at**

**Lidget Green Primary School**

**31.03.2020**

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were also asked to provide care for a limited number of children who are vulnerable

**Key contacts**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Name** | **Contact number** | **Email** |
| Designated  Safeguarding  Lead | Philippa Tomlinson | 07447650911 | pt@lidgetgreen.com |
| Deputy  Designated  Safeguarding  Lead | Afshan Hassan | 07447610537 | afshan.hassan@lidgetgreen.com |
| Headteacher | Christine Moran | 07552 708505 | chritine.moran@lidgetgreen.com |
| Inclusion Manager | Emma Kitson |  | emma.kitson@lidgetgreen.com |
| Chair of  Governors  (NSG) | Deirdre Bailey |  | deirdre.bailey@lidgetgreen.com |
| LA Initial Contact Point | (Office Hours) | 01274 435600 | <https://saferbradford.co.uk/> |
| LA Emergency Contact Point | (Out-of-Office Hours) | 01274 431010 | <https://saferbradford.co.uk/> |

Our web-site: [www.lidgetgreen.net](http://www.lidgetgreen.net) also has details of ways to report concerns under the Safeguarding tab

# Current situation

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker (Children who are looked after by the Local Authority, children on Child Protection or Child in Need plans) and those children with education, health and care (EHC) plans. We have also included children who are receiving, or have recently received, Early Help from the Local Authority in our plans.

Children in these categories have been offered places in school. Where parents have refused the places, Social Workers have been consulted as to the necessity for the children to attend school. Places will be made available for these children and for children whose families were self-isolating at the time, along with places for children of Key Workers, should they be needed/requested.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

We will continue to work with and support children’s social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children’s social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead people for this will be:

Philippa Tomlinson (DSL) Afshan Hassan (Lead Teacher for LAC/PLAC)

Arrangements have been made with Social Workers to visit CP children who are not in school regularly – 2/3 times a week, sharing the visits between school staff and Social Workers. The DSL team will contact their ‘Key’ vulnerable children’s parents by telephone each week and record this on CPOMS. If telephone contact cannot be made, or if there are any concerns, a member of the DSL team will make a home visit with a colleague, observing social distancing protocols.

# Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-today attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. Details of numbers of children are submitted to the DfE daily and to the LA weekly.

We will, however, follow up on any pupil that we were expecting to attend, who does not, including contacting any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

Parents and carers were asked to confirm emergency contact numbers when booking their children into the school’s emergency childcare.

# Designated Safeguarding Lead

Lidget Green Primary School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL. The Head teacher and Inclusion Manager are also trained Named Persons as outlined in the chart on Page 1.

We aim to have a trained DSL (or deputy) or a named person available on site whenever children are in attendance; if illness / self-isolation prevents this, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This might include liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children’s social workers where they require access to children on site.

Members of the DSL team will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

# Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes speaking to the DSL on site and making a report via CPOMS.

If a member of staff has a concern and is unable to contact the DSL, they should make a report via CPOMS if possible and also email the DSL team and the Headteacher. This will ensure that the concern is received.

**Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.**

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern immediately to the Headteacher, via telephone if she is not on site. This should then be followed up with an email, giving details of the concerns but only including the First Name initial of the person/ people involved.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors, via email, requesting a safeguarding call back.

**Safeguarding Training and induction**

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL will communicate with staff about any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter the school, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. It is very unlikely that new volunteers will be accepted into the school as proper safeguarding checks cannot be made.

If staff are deployed from another education or children’s workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

* the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children’s barred list check
* there are no known concerns about the individual’s suitability to work with children
* there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual
* the individual has had suitable safeguarding training this year

Upon arrival, they will have a safeguarding induction, be given a copy of our child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of our DSL arrangements.

# Safer recruitment and movement of staff

All recruitment has been postponed until such time as we are able to follow our standard Safer Recruitment process. We will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE. We will also continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA’s ‘Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing

Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, we will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

# Online safety in school

Lidget Green Primary School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

# Children and online safety away from school

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children’s social care and as required, the police.

We will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

If teachers are considering offering virtual lessons, rather than work for the children to do under the guidance of their parents, they must speak to the Headteacher.

# Supporting children not in school

Lidget Green Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils. We will share safeguarding messages on our website and through our Classdojo messaging system.

We recognise that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils’ work where they are at home.

# Supporting children in school

We will ensure that the school continues to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher, supported by the SLT, will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

We will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

We will ensure that where we care for children of Key Workers and Vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

If we have concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – will discuss them immediately with the LA.

# Peer on Peer Abuse

We recognise that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims**.**

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

**New children at the school**

Children may need to join our school from other settings. When they do, we will seek from those settings the relevant welfare and child protection information. This is relevant for all children that join us, but it will be especially important where children are vulnerable.

Exchanges of information will ideally happen at DSL (or deputy) level, and likewise between special educational needs co-ordinators. However, it is acknowledged this may not always be possible. Where this is the case, a Senior member of staff will take responsibility.

For vulnerable children we will ensure we understand the reasons for the vulnerability, the arrangements in place to support them, the name and contact details of associated Social Workers or Virtual School contacts, and ask for access to that child’s EHCP, Child Protection or Child in Need Plan and, for looked-after children, their personal education plan

Ideally this will happen before a child arrives but where that is not possible it will happen as soon as reasonably practicable. The DSL will undertake a risk assessment based on the information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know the information.

In the case of our children moving to another school, either temporarily or permanently, we will supply the same range of information in the first instance.