



Addendum

COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Consortium Trust and its Schools

This addendum of the Consortium Trust Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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Key contacts:

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Trust Safeguarding DSL	Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	0790 826 2623	principal@consortiumacademy.org
Alternate Safeguarding Trust DSLs	Nigel Shaddick	0789 995 8082	hoswisa@consortiumacademy.org
Chair of Trust	Dawn Carman-Jones		chair@consortiumacademy.org
Safeguarding Trustee	Margaret Sillis		m.sillis@consortiumacademy.org
School / Education Centre Lead	Please refer to local arrangements and school website		

Vulnerable children:

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Those with an EHCP 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.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

School/Education Centre Leaders, and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Alternates) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Consortium Trust 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 person for this will be: **name**

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Education Centre will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting Covid 19, Academy Heads or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Consortium Trust will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Attendance monitoring:

Schools to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes and follow up on non-attendance. Academy Heads and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending and will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend. Children who do not attend, Schools will follow up with parent or carer

To support the above, Schools will, communicate with parents/carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Schools will notify their social worker.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Consortium Academy Trust have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and an Alternate DSL. Alongside school based DSL and ADSLs.

The Trust Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne

The Trust Alternate Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Nigel Shaddick

The school/centre Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Please refer to local arrangements.

The school/centre Alternate Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Please refer to local arrangements.

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or Alternate) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or Alternate) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.

This might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, My Concern and liaising with the DSL (or Alternate) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school.

It is important that all School staff have access to a trained DSL (or Alternate). On each day staff on site will be made aware of that person is and how to speak to them.

The DSL 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 making a report via My Concern.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their My Concern from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Academy Head and the Trust Safeguarding Manager. 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 use a Safeguarding report form to report the concern to the Academy Head. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Academy Head whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Education Centre Lead.

Concerns around the Academy Head should be directed to the CEO (Principal) Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne
The Consortium Trust will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

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 Alternate) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or Alternate) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing Centre staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL should communicate with staff 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 Schools, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another school/education or children's workforce setting to our centres, 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*

For movement within the Trust, schools should seek assurance from the Trust's Head of Service - People that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

Safer recruitment/volunteers 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. When recruiting new staff, Education Centres will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (KCSIE).

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.

Schools and Education Centres 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.

Schools will 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, the Education Centre will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date.

Online safety in schools:

Schools and Consortium Trust 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. Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the Trust's Code of Conduct.

The Schools and Consortium Trust will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- *No 1:1s - groups only*
- *Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household*
- *Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and the background should be blurred*
- *The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed*
- *Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day*
- *Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background*
- *Staff must only use platforms provided by Trust to communicate with pupils*
- *Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held*

Supporting children not in school:

The Schools and Consortium Trust are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

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.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

The Schools, Consortium Trust and its DSLs will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

The School and Consortium Trust recognises that the 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 at the School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

The School and Consortium Trust will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Supporting children in school:

The Schools and Consortium Trust is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

The School and Consortium Trust will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Academy Head will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

The School and Consortium Trust 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 Covid 19.

The School and Consortium Trust will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Where the School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – will discuss them immediately with the trust.

Support from the Trust:

The Consortium Trust’s Head of Service - Welfare, Inclusion, Safeguarding, Attendance (WISA) will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively. This includes, remotely accessing Child Protection files for the purpose of quality assurance, support, guidance and direction. The Trust will also provide regular group and individual supervision sessions. This may take the form of an online meeting.

Document Control

Changes History:

Version	Date	Amended By	Details of Change
V1	01/04/2020	HoS WISA	Creation of addendum – Covid-19 response
V2	07/10/2020	HoS WISA	Update

Approval

Name	Job Title	Signed	Date
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	Principal/CEO	Electronic signature	02/04/2020
Dawn Carman-Jones	On behalf of the Trust Board	Electronic signature	02/04/2020

Equality Impact Assessment

Date	Name	Details

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