Coronavirus Addendum 2020

Whilst acknowledging the pressure that schools and colleges are under, it remains essential that as far as possible they continue to be safe places for children – this is especially true during the outbreak of the Covid – 19 virus. During situations where schools are advised to close to all children other than non-essential workers, the following areas will be addressed as follows:

Designated Safeguard Leads and safeguarding changes

The optimal scenario for any school or college providing care for children is to have a trained DSL or deputy available on site. It is recognised this may not be possible, and where this is the case there are 2 options to consider:

- a trained DSL or deputy from the school or college can be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example working from home

- sharing trained DSLs or deputies with other schools or colleges (who should be available to be contacted via phone or online video)

Where possible we will have a trained DSL or DDSL on site during any school opening. Where this isn't possible we will have 1 of the 3 DSL / DDSLs on call via phone/ video. The capacity of Kelsall Primary & Nursery School is enough to facilitate this without seeking external help from the MAT and we would only arrange cover from other sites due to illness of our own DSL/DDSLs.

All staff are to continue to record incidents in relation to child protection and safeguarding within school on CPOMs in line with this policy and report and alert such matters to the DSL as normal unless told otherwise, in which case they will report to the DDSL. All individuals are detailed within this document.

No changes are to be made to the way in which safeguarding reports are made as detailed above. This also includes how parents and members of the public can make report of concerns around safeguarding.

Vulnerable children

Ensuring that vulnerable children remain protected is a top priority for the government during the outbreak of Covid 19. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with EHC plans. As a setting we had already identified any children who are classed as vulnerable and have set up appropriate safeguards in place, including whether or not these children are in school when they should be during the outbreak, continuing contact with any relevant social care representatives and ensuring any provision required is continuing throughout this time. This is also the case for LAC.

Attendance

Local authorities and schools do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. Schools/colleges and social workers should be agreeing with families whether children in need should be attending education provision – and the school or college should then follow up on any child that they were expecting to

attend, who does not. Schools and colleges should also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their children and the children subsequently do not attend. An established list of children who are eligible to come into school has been ascertained and all staff are aware of who these children are, with this list being managed both centrally and remotely through school systems. Any changes to this list are immediately sent out to staff digitally. In regards to staff attendance, there is an established rota of what staff will be in the building at any one time for the foreseeable future. This changes weekly and is managed by the senior leadership team of the school.

For those children who do attend school as they are children of key workers, we do take a register and report this to the DfE via the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings. This allows for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allows schools to provide accurate, up-to-date data to the department on the number of children taking up places.

Staff training and safeguarding induction
All existing school staff have already had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of KCSIE. The important thing for these staff will be awareness of any new local arrangements so they know what to do if they are worried about a child. This is mitigated by this document which covers what to do in the event of a safeguarding worry or concern about a child. All staff have also had an annual top up training in relation to safeguarding this academic year where reporting measures and procedures were outlined and agreed with all staff members.
There are no safeguarding inductions to with any staff as we have no new starting members and have cancelled volunteers and any placements whilst school is closed due to Covid -19.

Children moving schools and colleges
In line with current Government protocol school is currently closed to all but essential key worker status parents. As such, we have no requests to join school currently, or indeed notifications of school transfers away from Kelsall.

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. If schools and colleges are recruiting new staff, they should continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of 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.

Kelsall Primary & Nursery School are in the fortunate position where we do not anticipate having to make any immediate appointments of staff during the outbreak of Covid – 19. Where we do following this, we will ensure that we follow our 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. In the mean time, we 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. 3 members of the school recruitment panel are fully Safer Recruitment trained and will follow this training as usual when making appointments.

As a matter of precaution and to limit any potential spread of coronavirus, we have stopped all non-essential staff coming in to school and as a result have cancelled any visits from visitors deemed to be non-essential. This includes volunteers and all have been cancelled until further notice.

Mental health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Teachers should be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. To combat any negative affects upon children and parents' mental health we have setup a dedicated page on the school website with useful information and resources about who can offer help and support during this difficult time. This can be found at: https://padlet.com/head260/4pd5gfyw7j1d.

Support for pupils and students in the current circumstances includes a mixture of current provision when in school, and remote provision as is detailed on the Padlet pages. Those children who are attending school as they are deemed as children of key workers are receiving daily activities and support which are beneficial to their mental health and wellbeing, these include but are not limited to:

- outdoor exercise for a minimum of 1 hour per day,

- healthy, freshly prepared meals and snacks,

- daily mindfulness activities such as yoga and meditation,

- social circle activities to engage with others,

- the facility to talk to appropriately trained staff members in a 1:1 setting about concerns or worries.

Online safety in schools and colleges and away from these settings.

As a setting we have continued to employ the services of our IT technical support team to ensure we remain connected throughout the Covid – 19 outbreak. This is being managed remotely to prevent the spread of infection. This means that children within the building who are using IT systems are as protected as they were before the outbreak, and that safeguarding measures such as filters and blockers continue to operate as normal. The acceptable usage agreement and online safety policies document these in further detail, however for clarity, it remains business as usual for Kelsall in relation to online safety.