


## Annex 1

	
<b>COVID-19 school arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at the Learning for Life Partnership</b>	
<b>School:</b>	Leighton Academy
<b>Policy owner:</b>	Mrs S Thompson
<b>Date addendum agreed:</b>	Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020
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**Please note that, over the next few months, there will be an increase in the number of children returning to school. For those children, once they are back in school, the normal 2019 – 2020 safeguarding policy will apply; however, there will also need to be additional, temporary arrangements, whilst social distancing is still in place. This addendum captures those additional arrangements and includes safeguarding procedures for those children who remain at home.**

### 1. Context

This addendum of the Leighton Academy Safeguarding and Child Protection policy outlines our practice during the current crisis; should this change over time it will be

updated to reflect those changes. This addendum contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

- Attendance of children in school
- Attendance monitoring
- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Supporting children attending school
- Supporting children not in school
- Reporting a concern
- Safeguarding Training and induction
- Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff
- Online safety
- Peer on Peer Abuse
- Radicalisation and Extremism

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact number</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs S Thompson	(01270) 814016	headofschool@leighton.cheshire.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs Z Dow	(01270) 814016	dowz@leighton.cheshire.sch.uk
Principal	Mr J Young	(01270) 814016	principal@leighton.cheshire.sch.uk
Trust Safeguarding Manager	Mr D Thomas	(01270) 661527	danthomas@tlflp.co.uk
Chair of LAB	Mrs D Ridings	(01270) 814016	LAB@@leighton.cheshire.sch.uk
Safeguarding LAB Member	Mrs N Kay	(01270) 814016	LAB@@leighton.cheshire.sch.uk

#### **Attendance of children in school:**

In line with current DfE and Cheshire East guidance, the attendance in school of Vulnerable children, children and young people up to the age of 25 with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, children who have a parent who is identified as a critical worker and, over time, specific year groups, is encouraged, where it is

appropriate for them; that is, where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household e.g. where they are self-isolating or are clinically vulnerable.

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker e.g. children who are Children in Need, those who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are Cared For (Looked after by the Local Authority). A child may also be deemed vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

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 it is safer for them to have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead/ Deputy DSL and Safeguarding team, 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.

Leighton Academy will continue to work with others to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority Virtual School Head (VSH) for Cared For and previously Cared For children. The lead person for this will be: Mrs L Schofield.

### **Attendance monitoring:**

Where a parent chooses not to send their child to school we will ascertain the reason for this and will ensure it is recorded; following this up, over time, as necessary.

We expect all our families to notify us if their child is unable to attend on a particular day so staff can explore the reason with them and offer support as appropriate. Where a child has been in school but has stopped attending and the parent has not notified us, checks will be carried out in line with the Leighton Academy attendance policy.

Where a vulnerable child does not attend/stops attending, we will notify the relevant professionals including Social Workers and Family Support Workers; liaising with practitioners and the family to remove any barriers. School will continue to link in with the child e.g. doorstep visit (where safe to do so), phone call etc. to ensure their continued well-being.

In line with updated guidance, we will resume daily recording of attendance and will continue to submit daily attendance information to the DfE.

Leighton Academy has ensured that we have confirmed that emergency contact numbers are correct with parents and we have asked for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

## **Designated Safeguarding Lead:**

### **Leighton Academy has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy.**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs S Thompson

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs Z Dow

We aim to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site at all times; we are aware though that, in the current situation, this might not always be possible. Where this is the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video link - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding. This might include updating and managing access to safeguarding records on CPOMs (our online recording system), liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) 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 Leighton Academy.

All staff and volunteers will be made aware of the DSL and Deputy and, if necessary the senior leader who is assuming responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site; and how to contact them on any given day.

The DSL and Deputy DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings (many of which will be remotely).

## **Supporting children attending school**

Leighton Academy will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Principal 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 COVID-19.

Where Leighton Academy has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – we will discuss them immediately with the Principal and the local Authority.

We recognise that children may present differently when they return to school than they did prior to the lock-down; this does not mean that they have been in abusive situations; however, staff will be alert to the signs of abuse and will take appropriate action should they become aware of it. Staff and volunteers will be alert to new safeguarding concerns about individual children and in relation to children where there have never been concerns raised previously.

We have a number of plans in place to ensure that all children have someone to talk to about their experiences of lockdown including bespoke Personal Development lessons and staff trained in mental health and wellbeing first aid to support the children should they need it.

Where a member of staff is teaching children, who they do not normally come into contact with, the DSL and/or Deputy DSL will ensure that they are familiar with any safeguarding concerns relating to those children.

We have asked parents and carers to advise school of any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that we should be aware of before a child returns.

### **Supporting children not in school:**

Leighton Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children; including those children who are not attending school.

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.

Details of this communication plan will be recorded on CPOMS, and a record of contact will be made.

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

Leighton Academy and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan. This plan will be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and, where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

Leighton Academy will regularly share safeguarding messages on its website, social media pages and will send these out as communications to parents.

Leighton Academy recognises that school is a protective factor for children and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at Leighton Academy are aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. They take appropriate action should any concerns arise including signposting to relevant support agencies, initiating an Early Help assessment or consulting with ChECS or adult social care.

### **Reporting a concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, regardless of whether that child is in school or at home, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, this includes making a written record of the concern.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access CPOMS from home, they should email the DSL or Deputy DSL and the Principal. This will ensure that the concern is received.

All 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 concerns to the Principal. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Principal whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Principal.

Concerns around the Principal. should be directed to the Chair of the Local Advisory Board: Mrs D Ridings via the email address listed in the contact details.

Communications which include sensitive data should be sent in a secure means e.g. Egress

All staff have been reminded of the requirement to record disclosures / concerns on the schools recording format via CPOMs.

### **Safeguarding training and induction:**

For the period that 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).

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training; including an annual refresher; they have all read and signed Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019).

Staff knowledge around safeguarding will be refreshed prior to them returning to work. In addition the DSL has communicated with all staff the 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 Leighton Academy, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

Where staff are moved/offer support to another school, the school should seek assurance from their home school that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training and a record will be kept of this.

Upon arrival, staff and volunteers will be given a copy of the receiving setting's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, the COVID-19 addendum 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, Leighton Academy will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for our setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (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.

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

Where Leighton Academy are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer, who has not been checked, be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Leighton Academy 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.

Leighton Academy 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](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk).

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current national emergency it is essential, from a safeguarding perspective, that we as a school are aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in Leighton Academy, 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 schools and colleges and for those children working at home**

Leighton Academy will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where children are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place; advice has also been given to parents around internet safety through emails and on the website.

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 will 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 Leighton Academy code of conduct.

Leighton Academy will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. As there is no expectation that teachers should live stream or provide pre-recorded videos we have considered the approaches that best suit the needs of our children and staff and therefore we have chosen not to provide live online lessons at the moment.

We have made parents and carers aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access. In addition we have made it clear who from Leighton Academy (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online. Parents have been made aware of sources of support and advice around internet safety for children.

In addition, staff supporting remote learning have been told that they must record whether any safeguarding issues were noted when communicating in any way with parents or pupils. If concerns were reported/observed, staff will record the detail of this and the date/time these were shared with the DSL as per normal safeguarding reporting processes.

An essential part of our online planning process has been to ensure that children who are being asked to work online have very clear reporting routes in place with Leighton Academy so they can raise any concerns whilst online. As well as reporting routes back to Leighton Academy we have signposted children to age appropriate practical support from:

- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse
- [Childline](#) - for support

### **Peer on Peer Abuse**

Where we receive a report of peer on peer abuse, staff will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe In Education and of those outlined within our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Leighton Academy will listen and work with the child, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required ensuring the safety and security of that child.

Concerns must be shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead as per normal safeguarding reporting processes and actions must be recorded.

### **Radicalisation and Extremism**



We are aware that the impact of COVID-19 on communities may give individuals and extremist organisations opportunities to promote hateful or harmful narratives. This may present in the form of graffiti, leafleting and stickering that is of an extremist nature. As a school we will consider the impact this material may have and encourage pupils to share any concerns if they feel worried, upset or anxious.

Leighton Academy will report any concerns and take advice from: **Prevent Referrals**: 01606 362147.