

# **APPENDIX TO SAFEGUARDING (CHILD PROTECTION) POLICY JANUARY 2021 FOR CORONAVIRUS**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Following DfE advice of 20 May 2020 *Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers* the following appendix has been added to the School's Safeguarding policy for the duration of the Coronavirus outbreak. This appendix is written following guidance from the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board. (OSCB) whose updates are taken account of. The appendix ensures that the School can continue to have regard to KCSIE. The fundamental principle upon which this appendix is based is that the best interests of children must always continue to come first.

The Appendix is also designed to ensure that safeguarding procedures are not weakened during the school's response to the coronavirus.

Staff should be particularly aware that children's mental health may well have been impacted by the Coronavirus situation. Our curriculum has taken into account this and staff are taking care not to put pupils under unnecessary pressure. Staff received INSET training on staff and pupil emotional well-being.

If there are any concerns, staff and volunteers should follow the procedures for reporting concerns as laid out in the safeguarding policy. The DSL will be on site while pupils are in school. The DSL or DDSL should be contacted if there are any concerns. Alternatively staff can make direct contact with OSCB following the instructions in the main policy and using the numbers provided there. It is vital that all staff act immediately upon any concerns that they have.

The DSL and DDSL are responsible for ensuring that they are aware of any concerns that parents may have about their children or of any changes in terms of welfare, health and well-being which may have occurred since the child has been away. Welfare information held on children must be accurate. The DSL and DDSL acknowledge that their role is particularly important at this time and will make these duties a priority, being acutely aware of their greater responsibility at this difficult time.

The DSL will be available at all times. The DSL and DDSL will discuss safeguarding issues on a regular basis and, in addition, as circumstances dictate.

Staff will be particularly aware of the potential for peer on peer abuse at a time when there is the possibility that pupils will be under stress.

If staff or volunteers have a concern about a member of staff, they should follow the procedures in the Main safeguarding policy. They should contact the Headmaster immediately who will make contact with the LADO. If the concern is with the Headmaster, then the Sub Dean, The Revd Richard Peers should be contacted on [richard.peers@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:richard.peers@chch.ox.ac.uk)

Vulnerable children will be looked after particularly closely at this period. Staff will be kept informed of their situation and parents communicated with. The school will work with social care to ensure that they receive optimum care where necessary.

Pupils about whom there is concern are discussed at a weekly online staff meeting and their parents communicated with. Our online school is interactive so all staff should take advantage of this to gauge how pupils are. All staff should feel it their duty to pass on their concerns and help is available, including from our counsellor, whose email address is freely available. All parents are aware of our "Keeping Safe Online" policy. All school teaching is done using Microsoft Teams and should not involve children visiting sites which could give them access to external threats. Teachers have been given advice about minimising risk when teaching online, particularly when doing so from home. Our IT systems are supported by a number of technicians who are available to support our Head of ICT. Children are made aware that if they are worried about anything online, they can contact the Head of IT or their tutor and seek advice from other organisations such as childline, UK safer Internet Centre and CEOP. The school will remind parents of their responsibilities in helping to keep their children safe while online, providing a list of support suggested by the DfE

The school will work with OSCB and other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners to support pupils, particularly those who are vulnerable. Advice will be taken from OSCB about children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need.

All risk assessments related to wider opening should be related to the school's approach to safeguarding and child protection. The risk assessments should help to ensure that children are effectively protected.

Staff and volunteer safer recruitment checks will continue to be maintained throughout the course of the response to Coronavirus. Under no circumstances will a member of staff or volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised. All staff entering the school should announce their presence in the building. New DBS checks are not required for staff returning after a break in regulated activity caused by the Coronavirus unless the School has concerns about them.

This appendix will be shared with all staff and volunteers who are currently working with pupils and will be made available publically alongside the safeguarding policy.

Revised 9-2-21