

## **SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION DURING COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURE**

The Long Eaton School remains open only for a limited number of children. The school's current Safeguarding and Child Protection arrangements remain in place as outlined in our published policy, however, this document outlines details of specific arrangements which apply during this period.

### **Safeguarding priority**

During these challenging times the safeguarding of all children at our school – whether they are currently at home or in attendance – continues to be our priority. The following fundamental safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children continue to come first
- if anyone in our school has a safeguarding concern, they will act immediately
- a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy DSL will always be available
- no unsuitable people will be allowed to gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online.

### **Safeguarding partners' advice**

We continue to work closely with our three safeguarding partners, and we will ensure this annex is consistent with their advice. This will include expectations for supporting children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need. The current advice is below:

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

### **Covid 19 Resources added to Derby & Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Online Procedures**

Following the introduction of the Coronavirus Act, Tri.x have created an additional COVID Standalone Resource which contains relevant changes and information as they relate to key procedures. Tri.x will now be adding a link to this resource from our online procedures manual. This information should NOT be used as a substitute for local directives and practitioners (regardless of setting) should contact their line manager for their organisation's latest guidance.

Over the last week, Tri.x have also created an online Resource for COVID – 19 which can be found on their website resource-hub. This resource collates useful information across adults and children's

services in one place, and links to relevant guidance as it becomes available. We have added a link to this resource from all procedures manuals.

The home page of the resource will allow you view the relevant manual for your area of work, for example: Childrens social care and safeguarding. This resource will remain in place for the duration of the Coronavirus crisis and will be updated on a regular basis as guidance changes. The resource is designed with practitioners in mind, and seeks to reflect- in one place - how any new and updated guidance will impact on procedures and practice. Tri.x will also continue to update the original resource page on their website with useful information and links.

<https://www.proceduresonline.com/resources/covid19/>

<https://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

<https://www.trixonline.co.uk/resource-hub/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

### **Vulnerable children**

The school 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.

**The lead person is: Mrs K Harrowing (Child Protection Officer)**  
**kharrowing@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk**

### **Attendance monitoring**

The school will follow up on any student that was expected to attend during this period who does not attend. In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, the school will notify their social worker.

**The lead person is: Mrs K Harrowing (Child Protection Officer)**  
**kharrowing@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk**

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Wherever possible the school will have a trained DSL or nominated person available on site. Where this is not possible, a trained DSL or nominated person will be available for contact via telephone.

Where a trained DSL or nominated person is not on site, in addition to the above, a Senior Leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.



The DSL will continue to engage with social workers and contribute to multi agency meetings remotely.

The DSL is: Mrs N Devine (Deputy Headteacher) [ndevine@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:ndevine@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk)

**Other nominated persons:** Mr T Worn (Assistant Headteacher and Deputy DSL)

[tworn@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:tworn@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Miss K Gould (Assistant Headteacher and Deputy DSL)

[kgould@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:kgould@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Mr S Patrick (Assistant Headteacher and Deputy DSL)

[spatrick@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:spatrick@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Mrs K Coxon (Wellbeing Officer)

[kcoxon@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:kcoxon@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk)

### **Reporting a concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the safeguarding policy and log all concerns on My Concerns and contact the allocated DSL on the rota immediately if the concern is urgent. If a staff member becomes concerned whilst working at home and is unable to use remote access, they should report their concern by emailing the Headteacher and DSL.

Headteacher: Mr R Peel [rpeel@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:rpeel@longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk)

### **Safeguarding Training**

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

All school staff have annual safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers are used, they will continue to be provided with the school's safeguarding induction.

### **Safer Recruitment**

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, the school will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes.

The school will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS and Teacher Regulation Agency, anyone who poses a risk of harm.

The school will ensure that, on any given day, only staff/volunteers who have the relevant checks are on site.

### **Online safety**

The school will continue to provide a safe environment, including online and where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Staff who are interacting with children online will continue to look out for signs that a child may be at risk and use the usual reporting mechanisms if necessary.

The school will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in accordance with the Trust's Data protection policy.

All students and parents/carers have been signposted to information about online safety. Additional support can be accessed via our website links.

<http://www.longeaton.derbyshire.sch.uk/about-tles/safeguarding>

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

The Long Eaton School is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all its students who are not in school and a robust communication plan is in place. This will be reviewed at least once a fortnight by the DSL.

The school recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people and that the current circumstances can affect their mental health and that of their parents/carers. Staff will be aware of this in setting expectations of student's work where they are at home.

### **Supporting children in school**

The Long Eaton School will continue to be a safe place for those students who attend during this period. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to student ratio numbers are appropriate to maximise safety.

The school will refer to the Government guidance 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 spreading COVID-19.

The school 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.

### **Peer on Peer Abuse**

The school recognises that during the closure period, a revised process may be required for managing any incidents. The school will follow the principles set out in part 5 KSCIE and those outlined in the Safeguarding policy.