



**April 2020**

### **Addendum to Child Protection Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19**

Due to the current unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 virus it is necessary that all schools are prepared and have appropriate arrangements in place in relation to the management of any safeguarding or child protection concerns both on and off site during this time. Therefore, we have produced this cover note/addendum to our existing Hudson Road Primary School Child Protection Policy to ensure all staff, Governors and Parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time.

#### **Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies**

On Site: While our school site remains open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are Mrs C Westgate, Mr A Trewick and Mrs M McGrory continue to be our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies due to their level of training and skill. However due to these unprecedented circumstances they may not physically be on our school site every day. In this case a member of the School Leadership Team, Mrs Clare Swanepoel, will liaise directly with one of the the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies by phone if any incidents of a child protection nature occur.

Should our school site be entirely closed then we will update our website and Child Protection Policy with our arrangements.

#### **Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children**

While our school remains open, the Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are fully aware of their vulnerable children and those they are expecting into school each day. Should that child not attend as expected then the school office will make contact to check the reason for the absence. If unable to get a response the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy will make contact immediately with appropriate front door services to alert them to a concern.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will continue to contact vulnerable children and their families in the following timescales if the school is closed or these children are not on site: children the subject of a Child Protection Plan (daily), children who have a Child in Need Plan (twice weekly), Looked After Children (twice weekly) or children with an Early Help Plan (weekly). If there are any issues raised during this time regarding their care, safety or ability to be contacted then the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will follow their local safeguarding procedures and contact their local front door services immediately (as per our Child Protection Policy).

#### **Availability and contact arrangements for families and professionals who wish to make contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies**

During these unprecedented circumstances the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be available to be contacted by children, families and other services and agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all our vulnerable children. They can be contacted via

the school telephone number in the first instance and whether they are on or off site they will gain contact with any family or professional as soon as possible.

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day 9am-3.30pm ONLY. Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving calls and messages outside of these times.

**Anyone who has a concern about a child's welfare out of normal school hours should made a referral to the TfC – Integrated Contact and Referral Team (ICRT) on 0191 520 5560 (in line with our Child Protection Policy) or contact the Police.**

### **Response to safeguarding or child protection concerns**

As always our school's duty of care is to keep children safe and while the arrangements of the physical care of children and physical presence of our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies may be different during this time the school's response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school's Child Protection Policy.

Issued 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

Please see DFE interim coronavirus ( covid -19): safeguarding in schools colleges and other providers advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>