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Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy 12.02.2021

Annex – Covid-19 Specific Guidance

This guidance is interim safeguarding guidance, it remains under review by Bath Academy and the Department for Education.

Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline:

Telephone: 0800 046 8687

If you have a query about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to schools and other educational establishments and/or children's social care in England, contact our helpline.

Easter opening hours:

On Good Friday, Saturday 11 April and Easter Monday lines are open from 10am to 4pm.
The helpline is closed on Easter Sunday.

Standard opening hours will resume on Tuesday 14 April:

Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm and weekends 10am to 4pm.

Role of the local authority

Local authorities will ensure that children of critical workers and vulnerable children can, where required, attend a school or college. Regional School Commissioners will support local authorities' in maintaining effective safeguarding and child protection services.

Safeguarding and clusters

Where schools and colleges collaborate and children and/or staff from multiple settings are clustered in one place, keeping children safe in education (KCSIE) continues to apply. In particular, the school or college that is acting as the hub in the cluster should continue to provide a safe environment, keep children safe and ensure staff and volunteers have been appropriately checked and risk assessments carried out as required.

Keeping children safe in schools and colleges

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to how we usually operate, 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 by phone 07340 176689
- 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.

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Bath Academy will review and revise their Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and keep it under review as circumstances continue to evolve.

There will not necessarily be a DSL, or deputy on site during the school day, however if you have a safeguarding concern please contact the DSL on duty using the school contact (details top of page 1).

If you cannot make contact, then please move to the next DSL down the list. Mobile numbers are available at the discretion of the DSL. Tim Naylor, who is contactable by email: tim.naylor@bathacademy.co.uk.

Updated 30/03/20:

- All concerns should be written up in the usual manner either by DSL or the reporting member of staff;
- It is of vital important that all staff act immediately on any safeguarding concerns;
- Children with education, health and care plans will be monitored by the SENCO who will liaise with the DSL, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and children's social care;
- All students with social workers or looked after children have a key contact person who will regularly contact both the child and the parents/carers to monitor wellbeing and maintain school contact. This contact is monitored by the DSL.
- It is particularly important that all students are regularly contacted by key staff, as well as checking on progress and wellbeing they should be vigilant of any safeguarding concerns, particularly peer on peer abuse.
- If staff or volunteers have concerns about a staff member or volunteer who may pose a safeguarding risk to children, they should contact the Principal or the deputy DSL who will pass the concern to the Principal. This should be done by telephone and email and then written up in the usual manner.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)

The optimal scenario for any school 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:

- a trained DSL or deputy from the school can be available to be contacted via phone when they are working from home;

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL and deputy who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

Vulnerable Children

There is an expectation that children with a social worker will attend provision, unless in consultation with the child's social worker and family, it is agreed this is not in the best interests of the child or unsafe.

Senior leaders, especially DSL and deputy know who their most vulnerable children are and have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edges of receiving children's social care support.

School staff should continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This will be especially important during the COVID-19 period.

Attendance

Local authorities and schools do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. Schools and social workers agree with families whether children in need should be attending education provision; the school must follow up on any child that they were expecting to attend, and who does not.

Schools should take the opportunity when communicating with parents and carers to confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available. In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, the school should notify their social worker. The daily online attendance form keeps a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. This must be kept up to date and the daily Department for Education submission must be done each morning.

Staff Training and Safeguarding Induction

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter the school, they should continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. The receiving school should judge, on a case-by-case basis, the level of safeguarding induction required. They will require a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

Children Moving Schools and Colleges

It is important schools provide the receiving institution with any relevant welfare and child protection information. This is especially important where children are vulnerable. (EHCP, CIN plan, CP plan or PEP should be provided).

Updated 30/03/2020:

Any exchanges of information will ideally happen at DSL (or deputy) level, and likewise between special educational needs co-ordinator, otherwise senior leaders will manage this.

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. Bath Academy must follow the usual guidance for recruitment. Under no circumstances should a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

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. The receiving institution should risk assess as they would for a volunteer. Schools and colleges must continue to follow their legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Please refer to the Bath Academy Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Please note: All employees of Bath Academy are covered by our compliance statement and follow a standard set of procedures.

Mental Health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of students and their parents. Teachers should be aware of this in setting expectations of student's work where they are at home.

When providing for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, schools should ensure appropriate support is in place for them. Further guidance on mental health and behaviour in schools is available from the Department for Education: mental health and behaviour in schools.

Online Safety in Schools and Colleges

It will be more important than ever that schools and colleges provide a safe environment, including online. Schools IT systems will continue to provide online filtering and protection.

The school will contact parents and carers with guidance to keep their children safe online which may include:

Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online;

London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online;

Net-aware - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC;

Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online;

Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online;

UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers

All members of Bath Academy staff must complete Safeguarding during COVID-19 Safeguarding course.

Children and Online Safety away from School and College

In most cases, the majority of children will not be physically attending the college. 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 should still be made to children's social care and as required the police.

Online teaching has the same principles as set out in the Bath Academy staff code of conduct. This policy includes acceptable use of technologies, staff pupil/student relationships and communication including the use of social media.

Children working offline can raise concerns online by reporting back to the school, or by contacting:

Childline - for support

UK Safer Internet Centre - to report and remove harmful online content

CEOP - for advice on making a report about online abuse

Parents and carers may choose to supplement the school or college online offer with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors.

Schools will write to parents to stress the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children.