



Appendix to Child Protection Policy COVID-19 Outbreak 30th March 2020

Response to COVID-19

There have been significant changes within our setting in response to the outbreak. Many young people are now at home and staffing is likely to be significantly affected through illness and self-isolation.

Despite the changes, the school's Child Protection Policy is fundamentally the same: **children and young people always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the DSL in line with our established safeguarding procedure.**

This annex sets out some of the adjustments we are making in line with the changed arrangements in the school and following advice from government and local agencies.

It is important that the Child Protection Policy is revised and kept under review as circumstances continue to evolve. This COVID-19 annex/addendum summarises the key COVID-19 related changes as of time of writing.

The current school position and local advice

Starbeck Primary Academy continues to be open to the children of key workers and for children that the school has identified as vulnerable as per advice received by the Local Authority and DfE.

Dedicated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The school arrangements continue in line with our child protection policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Sally Pitts sally.pitts@starbeck.n-yorks.sch.uk

Garry de Castro Morland headteacher@starbeck.n-yorks.sch.uk

Starbeck Primary Academy will have a trained DSL available on site, wherever possible.

A trained DSL from the school will be available to be contacted via phone and/or email during school- working hours, when working from home.

The sharing of trained DSLs or deputies with other schools across the trust may be used in the event of the school's DSLs are unable to work.

Safeguarding concerns

If staff or volunteers have any concerns about a child, they should follow the safeguarding procedures as set out in the Child Protection Policy. The DSLs, Sally Pitts and Garry de Castro Morland, will be contactable during normal school hours either in school or working from home.

It is important that all staff and volunteers continue to act and act immediately on any safeguarding concerns

If you believe the situation is urgent but does not require the police, please call **01609 780780** to make a telephone contact.





Should your call be outside of business hours (Monday – Friday / 9am-5pm) please still call **01609 780780** to speak to the Emergency Duty Team.

A written referral using the universal referral form must be completed and submitted **within 24 hours** of your telephone call.

EHC Plans

Government guidance states that if children with EHC plans can safely remain at home, they should. School, NSAT and the local authority need to consider the needs of all children and young people with an EHC plan, alongside the views of their parents. A risk assessment for each child has been completed and these will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

CSC and LAC

School and trust staff will continue to work with, and support, children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. Staff, wherever possible, will attend CIN and CP meetings in line with statutory requirements through virtual meetings.

Holiday arrangements

Starbeck Primary Academy is continuing to provide places for children over the Easter break and this will be offered up to children of key workers only. Arrangements to keep weekly contact with vulnerable pupils will continue as a weekly phone call to families and weekly contact with supporting agencies.

Attendance

The school is following the attendance guidance issued by government. Where a child is expected to attend and does not arrive the school, we will follow our attendance procedure and make contact with the family. If contact is not possible by 9:30am the DSL must be informed. The DSL will attempt a range of methods to contact the parent (phone and /or email) but if necessary, arrange a home visit by another appropriate agency. A risk assessment will be undertaken to consider and manage the implications of COVID-19 alongside other risks perceived to the child. The risk of COVID-19 does not override the duty on the school to ensure children and young people are safe.

The school will also follow the attendance procedure if contact proves impossible with children at home. This will in the case of vulnerable children and involve passing details to social care for a safety and welfare check to be made.

Staff will be aware of increased risk

The pressures on children and their families during this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, poverty, and financial or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in the setting of any work for children to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning – see below). Staff will be aware of the mental health of both children and their parents and carers, informing the DSL about any concerns.





Staff Well-being

Staff who are healthy and not in a high-risk vulnerable group will be called upon to be in school. Staff will not be consulted on when they are able to work. There are many considerations, including accommodating staff who have childcare responsibilities during the normal working week. Starbeck Primary Academy will try to accommodate these needs wherever possible, although it is important to recognise that this could pose some challenges to those designing the rotas and there will need to be an element of flexibility all round.

Staff who have health conditions, which make them vulnerable to being badly affected if they catch the virus, will not be included on staff rotas for working in school. They will support the school in other ways, which has been discussed with them.

Staff who live with someone in the most vulnerable health groups, as set out in the guidance on shielding, will not be included on staff rotas for working in school as it is highly unlikely that the required stringent social distancing can be adhered to. It is essential that action is taken to reduce the number of people who would require hospitalisation if they caught the virus. Staff should not, in addition to all their other worries, be afraid that, because of their attendance in school, they will infect vulnerable relations who they live with.

Peer on Peer Abuse

School will continue to manage any reports of abuse and support victims in line with KCSIE part 5.

Online safety away from school

The DfE has provided separate guidance on providing education remotely. It sets out 4 key areas that should be considered as part of any remote learning strategy. This includes the use of technology. Recently published [guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on safe remote learning](#) and from the [London Grid for Learning on the use of videos and livestreaming](#) which could help plan online lessons and/or activities and plan them safely.

Starbeck Primary School will ensure that any online learning tools and systems that are used are in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Children who are being asked to work online have very clear reporting routes in place so they can raise any concerns whilst online. School will reinforce the importance of children being safe online through regular communication with parents and carers. Parents and carers will be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and be clear who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online. Parents and carers will set up any online learning through their own logins, and will be advised to monitor their child's access and content. Staff will also monitor all content on the online learning platforms.





Allegations or concerns regarding a staff member

Staff and volunteers should continue to report any concerns about a staff member or volunteer who may pose a safeguarding risk to children as set out in the Child Protection policy. (Also refer to part 4 of KCSIE)

If staff or volunteers are transferring in from other registered education or childcare settings for a temporary period to support the care of children, we will follow the school's safeguarding procedures as set out in the policy.

New children at the school

Where children join our school from other settings, we will require confirmation from the DSL whether they have a Safeguarding File or SEN statement/EHCP. This file must be provided securely before the child begins at our school and a call made from our DSL or a deputy to the placing school's DSL to discuss how best to keep the child safe. In some unusual circumstance, this may not be possible. Information provided must include contact details for any appointed social worker and where relevant for the Virtual School Head. Safeguarding information about children placed in our school will be recorded on our safeguarding system, will be securely copied to the placing school DSL and will be securely returned to the placing school on completion of the child's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the child.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment in respect of any new information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know about the information. This will be recorded on our safeguarding recording system.

Other vulnerable children

School have support in place for children that we are concerned about who do not meet the 'vulnerable' definition. Please refer to the Vulnerable Child List and Closure Safeguarding Plan.

Starbeck Primary Academy have made parents aware that they can contact school on the school admin email address. This will be checked at least daily and any safeguarding emails will be signposted to the correct person/agency.

All families on the school's vulnerable list have access to a school mobile number, which they can access. One of the DSLs will hold this phone at all times.

This appendix will continue to be updated as further guidance; in particular COVID-19 safeguarding guidance is received.

This policy has been remotely approved by Governors on 1st April 2020 and is available on the school website at www.starbeckprimaryacademy.co.uk

