



St. James' C of E Primary School

Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Appendix

From 23rd March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, including those with a social worker, those with an Educational Health Care plan. and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This additional Appendix of DGAT's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy details the Trust's individual safeguarding arrangements during this exceptional period. This document is an interim document and will be amended and updated throughout this period as the situation changes.

Status & Review Cycle;
Responsible group:
Implementation date:
Next Review Date:

Statutory and annual
The Trust with LGB amendments to setting and ratification
March 2020
Ongoing as needed.

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Those pupils whose parents are reluctant for them to be in school should be contacted by the social worker and the education setting to explore the reasons why they would not be in school. This should be resolved where possible. Guidance states that unless a pupil fits the significant underlying health advice they should be in school.

All pupils with a medical EHCP can continue to attend if the LA risk assessment completed with the parental views allows this. Please note that your normal offer can be changed to keep them in school, if they are safe. If you need additional support to achieve this, please contact your LA link, who may be able to source additional specialist staff and resources from across the county to help.

Schools that are unable to make provision for pupil who needs to be in school you will need to liaise with other schools to find an alternative placement. LA Links can support with this. However, please remember that for many children they may struggle to make this transition.

School that are considering an alternative school for a pupil with an EHCP, there should be a conversation between SENCO and Headteacher and the plan shared before deciding. Where possible, an appropriate member of staff from your school should accompany the child for support and familiarity.

For schools with pupils with significant health issues who are unable to keep them safe in school because trained staff are ill or in self-isolation, please discuss with their social worker or lead professional in DCYS to agree course of action. If no allocated worker please contact the Disabled Children's duty worker on 01452 425022 or by email through dycspduty@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) will have collated an up to date list of our most vulnerable children and will ensure provision is offered to them whilst the school is in partial closure.

DGAT schools 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.

Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. Except if a parent or carer has requested a place and the child does **not** attend. Schools should be checking carefully with parents/carers that the emergency contact numbers that they have are still current and able to be used and that no additional numbers should be added, for example should not be someone who falls into the vulnerable group, such as a grandparent over 70.

DGAT HT's and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether their child will be attending school and then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Normal systems and processes should apply.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, we will notify their social worker. If this is not responded to, please refer to your LA link contact who will support you with escalating this further.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

When DGAT is partially opened, a DSL or Deputy will be available. KCSIE is clear that this does not have to be in person if not possible, but available. If all of your DSL/DDSL are self-isolating, please contact the DCEO to support you with this.

It is important that all staff have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of that person is and how to speak to them.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which will be done remotely in line with the LA expectations (19.3.2020)

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the Trust Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot have a direct conversation with the DSL or a Deputy DSL, they should email them to ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should follow the process outlined in the school Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors as per normal arrangements.

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

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

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child. The DSL will ensure that all staff confirm either by signing a list in school that this has been completed or via email to the DSL that this has been completed.

Where new staff are recruited they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to the school, the DSL will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual
- Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

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. When recruiting new staff, DGAT will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE)

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.

DGAT will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

We will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals will be made by emailing Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will

be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, DGAT will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

DGAT COVID-19 Interim Appendix

Online safety in schools and colleges

DGAT will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. DGAT schools will ensure that provision is in place for IT filter contingency provision is in place.

The UK council for Internet Safety provides for leaders including LGB to assure themselves that any new arrangements continue to effectively safeguard pupils online.

Where Pupils are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place in line with normal practice.

Children and online safety away from school

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 and Safeguarding Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

DGAT schools will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

All staff will be reminded of safeguarding practices to observe when interacting with pupils who are at home for the duration of this period.

Supporting children not in school

DGAT is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded. Risk Assessment will be completed before any visit.

DGAT schools will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate using the normal systems and processes. Where social workers do not respond to the schools concerns the DSL will refer to the LA link to ensure that this is escalated.

The Trust and the school will share this appendix to the normal policy on its website.

DGAT recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. All staff need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

DGAT will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, appropriate support is in place for them.

Supporting children in school

DGAT is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils

DGAT will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Head Teacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

DGAT will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings 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 spread of COVID19.

DGAT 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.

Where DGAT has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – they are discussed immediately with the trust.

Peer on peer Abuse

DGAT recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Children who are in school during partial closure will be supervised at all times, to ensure they feel safe.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi- agency partner required ensuring the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded, and appropriate referrals made.

Safeguarding Procedures following COVID 19 response and guidance for staff.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings

During this time, please remember that the DSL doesn't have to be physically in the building... Keeping Children Safe in Education states...

The designated safeguarding lead or a deputy should always be available to discuss safeguarding concerns.

When you consider your rota's bear this in mind to make your life easier. If your school has no access to a DSL because of sickness, please contact the DCEO who can support.

Should you have a concern about any vulnerable pupil's lack of attendance at school that you are unable to resolve through a social worker - contact the LA link who will support you in escalating.

Support for learners with current Full Child Protection concerns:

- All pupils of children with a social worker are under the DFE guidance should be in school.
- Those pupils whose parents are reluctant for them to be in school should be contacted by the social worker and the education setting to explore the reasons why they would not be in school. This should be resolved where possible. Guidance states that unless a pupil fits the significant underlying health advice they should be in school.
- Social workers will support schools to identify pupils who you believe would be safer in school. When pupils you believe are not coming into school and are at risk, contact your social worker. If during this period you are struggling to contact social care, the escalation process during this period is through your LA link.
- DSL/Deputy DSLs to liaise with all necessary professionals as needed.
- Weekly home visits for those pupils assessed as in greatest need. Doorstep contact only at a 2m distance. All learners **MUST** be seen, and visits should follow your risk assessment and PHE guidance on social distancing. A member of the school leadership team plus another staff member from the school to make visits.
- Visits to the doorstep are to be agreed and scheduled with the family. Following visits, the DS/Deputy DSL will complete conference calls with one another to support progress and effective working practice.
- During this period of social distancing, all planned Core, Strategy or review meetings, unless advised otherwise, will be held remotely. GCC provision made this clear to all (19.3.2020).
- Continue to use CPOMS/My Concern/School own system to record and report as per usual school practice.

Support for learners with current Child in Need concerns:

- Telephone contact weekly with those assessed as having some need. Increase this to doorstep visits, following the guidance above (or refer to social care) if concerns arise. Phone contact available to families via the school phone or mobile held by the DSL/ Deputy DSL if off site.
- During this period of social distancing, all planned Core, Strategy or review meetings, unless advised otherwise, will be held remotely. GCC provision made this clear to all (19.3.2020).

Any other vulnerable pupils including EHCP

For most pupils with an EHCP, it is safer for them to stay at home. However, some parent's may struggle because their child needs specialist support or they are a key worker.

- DSL to check in according to perceived need.
- All pupils with a medical EHCP can continue to attend if the LA risk assessment completed with the parental views allows this. Please note that your normal offer can be changed to keep them in school, if they are safe. If you need additional support to achieve this, please contact your LA link, who may be able to source additional specialist staff and resources from across the county to help.
- If you are unable to make provision for pupil who needs to be in school, you will need to liaise with other schools to find an alternative placement. LA Links can support with this. However, please remember that for many children they may struggle to make this transition.
- If you are considering an alternative school for a pupil with an EHCP, there should be a conversation between SENCO and Headteacher and the plan shared before deciding. Where possible, an appropriate member of staff from your school should accompany the child for support and familiarity.
- Pupils with significant health issues who you are unable to keep safe in school because trained staff are ill or in self-isolation, please discuss with their social worker or lead professional in DCYS to agree course of action. If no allocated worker please contact the Disabled Children's duty worker on 01452 425022 or by email through dycspduty@gloucestershire.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE:

- All support of families during this time to be recorded using appropriate agreed systems where necessary.
- DSL/Deputy DSL to be available for safeguarding escalation. School mobile numbers to be shared with families.
- Safeguarding in Education Team are available for general enquiries. The contact details are gsep@gloucestershire.gov.uk or 01452 426221.
- Only school phones are to be used to contact families. Staff personal phone numbers are not be shared.
- All information in relation to pupil details, social care contacts etc will be stored by the DSL/Deputy DSL in line with GDPR guidance.
- Following any visit that raises concern the DSL will report to the relevant professionals who may carry out unscheduled visits to the home.
- Should the school have to close because of insufficient staff numbers, or you have closed because of insufficient numbers, please ensure that you have an ongoing oversight of all vulnerable pupils in your school. Access to a DSL /Deputy DSL so that these people can receive MASH and Operation Encompass enquiries. Please be aware also that there is a fluctuating need and you may need to bring your operation back into operation should it be needed.

This is a dynamic document that will be updated in line with guidance from DSL, Department for Education and Government as needed.

Actions

- DSLs to collate vulnerable pupil list

- File of all social worker numbers associated with all caseloads to be collated – DSL/Family Support
- Allocation of pupils to DSL and Deputy DSL along with contact sheets.
- Please make sure that social workers can contact you through your usual communication methods.

DGAT COVID-19 Interim Appendix