

DHSG Safeguarding

Covid-19 (addendum)

Updated 7.1.21

The way we 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 has a safeguarding concern they should continue to act and act immediately
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

(DfE Guidance: Covid-19 Safeguarding in Schools, Colleges and other providers March 2020)

Our Safeguarding Policy and Staff Code of Conduct still currently apply, however this addendum seeks to clarify certain adaptations to reflect remote learning and partial closure of the school site. This addendum will be kept under review as circumstances dictate.

- All staff and volunteers should continue to report safeguarding concerns immediately to the DSL Ruth Morgan via work mobile 07730 130184. Staff must also immediately follow this up with an email to rmorgan@dhsg.co.uk copying in Alan Thomas Deputy DSL athomas@dhsg.co.uk. The DSL will then make contact to discuss the matter further.
- Staff need to be mindful and alert to signs of Domestic Abuse (DA) as highlighted by Government agencies. There are significant increases in reported DA nationally as a result of the current situation.
- On site during the school day a rota of staff are supporting the vulnerable children/children of key workers and delivering online teaching to these students and others at home. The members of SLT on rota will be responsible for Safeguarding on site for that day and will liaise with the DSL as required.
- We 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 and are completing returns to appropriate bodies to monitor in partnership the wellbeing of vulnerable students.
- The DSL will contact the relevant Social Worker where a vulnerable student does not attend school and agree an approach.
- We continue to expect all staff to abide by the highest professional standards when working directly and remotely with students. Communication should ONLY be via school email and Teams unless this has been discussed and agreed with a member of SLT. In circumstances where a member of staff deems it necessary to offer a student one to one support, this must be done via Teams and another colleague (HOH/HOD) must be added to the Team to log this for safeguarding purposes. If staff have concerns about the behaviour of a colleague, this must be reported as per the procedures in our Safeguarding Policy. Separate guidance in relation to the use of online technology, in

particular 'Teams', to deliver remote learning has been issued and must be read alongside this addendum to ensure safe practice.

- We have identified a wider group of students who may benefit from more regular and direct contact during the partial closure of the school. This group are being supported by regular phone/video calling (following consent being gained from Parents/Carers) from an identified member of staff on an agreed schedule (daily/weekly/twice weekly). All calls and observations are centrally logged within OneDrive and monitored by the DSL. All students will receive direct contact via live video meetings on Teams with their Tutor at least once a week, Tutors will also make calls home as appropriate.
- We are in regular email/Edulink contact with all students and Parents/Carers to provide updates in relation to support during partial school closure. This communication includes support for wellbeing, signposting to external support and reminders for keeping safe online including:

[Childline](#) - for support

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content

[CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse

Where Parents/Carers choose to supplement their child's education with online companies or individual tutors, we strongly emphasise 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.

The following DfE approved support for parents/carers are promoted:

- [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 careers 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

- We wish to continue to support Staff wellbeing and resilience, Middle and Senior leaders are encouraged to make regular contact with their teams of staff and vice versa. Staff are also aware of additional routes of school based support.
- We have been instructed by the DfE not to complete our usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. However, we will consult Parents/Carers to ascertain who will be sending their child to school (under the vulnerable child/Key Worker guidance) and follow up on any child that we were expecting to attend, who does not. We will also complete a daily attendance return for the LA and DfE as part of external requests relating to Covid-19 as appropriate.
- We are aware that negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of students and their parents/carers. All our staff will be mindful of this in setting expectations of students' work when they are at home. When students are on site there will always be an experienced Pastoral Leader/member of SLT available to support wellbeing.
- DHSG remains a safe environment, this includes our online facilities and our regular filters and monitoring systems will remain operational. Staff will continue to research and establish that all online resources and set tasks are suitable for the target age group.

- We will continue to look out for signs that a child may be at risk online and any such concerns will be reported to the DSL and where appropriate referrals will still be made to children's social care and as required to the police.
- Numbers of students on site during the partial closure are significantly reduced, and we have conducted a thorough risk assessment adopting Covid secure procedures and safe systems on site in accordance with DfE guidance for example:
 1. Total numbers on site are carefully monitored. A staff rota and distinct student/staff 'pods' are in operation.
 2. Handwashing and/or sanitising takes place regularly.
 3. Limited areas of the school building are open. These areas are cleaned each day.
 4. Social distancing is applied and situations of potential viral transmission reduced, for example students remain within their pods and do not mix with students from other pods on site.
 5. There is always a First Aid trained member of staff on site.
 6. We are proceeding with the mandatory roll out of Lateral Flow Covid-19 testing with Staff and on-site students where consent has been provided.
- The full risk assessment has been shared with all staff.
- All staff will receive this addendum by email each time there are any changes to it.