

COVID-19 Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection



Dunclug Primary School

Date ratified by Board of Governors: September 2020

Date of Next Review: August 2021

COVID-19 Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

CONTEXT:

From March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of key workers and children who are vulnerable.

The current national health concerns relating to Covid-19 creates uncertainty in the lives of children and young people. Daily routines, family life, friendship groups and the safe space that schools provide have been disrupted. For many children, the need to spend most of their day at home will bring an additional challenge, and for some this will be an additional safeguarding risk factor. It is important that the adults responsible for safeguarding children are sensitive to their physical, social and emotional needs in the most unusual circumstances. It is critically important that children who are or may be at risk are identified so that a proportionate compassionate and sensitive response can be taken.

PROCEDURES:

Staff in Dunclug Primary will continue to follow the procedures outlined in our Policy.

In addition the following arrangements have been put in place to support families and monitor pupil safety:

The school email address, Seesaw messaging, main school phone number and the school's principal's mobile number have been made available to all parents. Parents have been informed that the Designated Teacher and School Principal are available at all times.

Teachers provide online learning via Seesaw and the school website with strict procedures in place to minimise risk.

The website provides parents with a range of resources and links to additional learning, well being support and guidance, for example, internet safety.

We would remind everyone to stay safe when using online resources and to report any concerns to a member of the safeguarding team.

In line with the information previously provided to schools by the EA CPSS, teachers may make phone calls to parents. These will be pastoral in nature and a record will be kept of any issues reported by parents. Any concerns around pupil well-being will be shared without delay with a member of the safeguarding team.

If a member of staff is using their personal telephone their number will be withheld to ensure protection of private information of staff.

ONLINE SAFETY:

In order to ensure the safety of all involved the following guidance should be followed if staff and pupils are engaging in online teaching/communication using video conferencing or platforms recommended by and available via C2K.

- Teachers and pupils will need to be fully dressed and should not wear pyjamas/sleep wear during the session.
- Students cannot participate from a bedroom.
- The teacher arranges the session and password and shares this only with pupils.
- Pupils must agree not to share the password with anyone else.
- Parental consent will be sought before their child attends online sessions.
- A disclosure or concern over any online forum will be followed up as it would be in school.
- Online sessions should be time limited for the benefit of both children and teachers.

If there is a breach to any of these procedures, eg, pupil gives password to someone else who joins the group the teacher should immediately terminate the session and advise Mr Beacom.

HOW A PARENT CAN RAISE AN ISSUE OR EXPRESS A CONCERN:

We would welcome parents asking for advice and help if they have concerns about their child's well-being or safety. Asking for help is a protective factor and parental concerns and requests for help will always be taken seriously.

Any member of staff will listen carefully to parental concerns and ensure that the request for help, if necessary, is brought to the attention of a member of the safeguarding team. In this case a decision can be made as to how best to provide help.

IF SCHOOL IS OPEN DURING COVID-19 CLOSURES:

If our school is open for vulnerable pupils and key workers children the school will adhere to the EA guidance. If our school is part of a cluster of schools which are open we will share relevant safeguarding information with the Designated Teacher and/or Principal. In accordance with our Child Protection procedures this information will be shared on a need to know basis.

In any event, we will follow current Department of Education and Department of Health guidelines regarding social distancing, hygiene and personal protective equipment to ensure the safety of both pupils and staff.

HOW A CHILD CAN RAISE CONCERN:

We know that while many children will be enjoying their time at home and remain almost unaffected by this unusual situation, there will be others who feel scared, lonely and even those who miss school. Our safeguarding responsibility to all our children continues and we will seek to maintain contact with our children and young people as well as signpost them to other agencies.

We will use the following means to connect with our children and young people:

- Respond to Seesaw comments.
- Respond to any concerning comments if our children are on social media.

Other agencies:

- NSPCC Childline
- CEOP
- Safer Schools App

SOME USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Dunclug Primary School: 028 2565 2327

Central Gateway Team: 028 9442 4000

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/coronavirus>

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline/report-harmful-content>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

MONITROING AND REVIEW

The safeguarding team will review and amend these arrangements regularly during the period of Covid-19 school closure in line with Departmental guidance and advice.

SIGNED: P Boyd Designated Teacher

SIGNED: A Beacom Principal

SIGNED: S Beatty Chair of Board of Governors