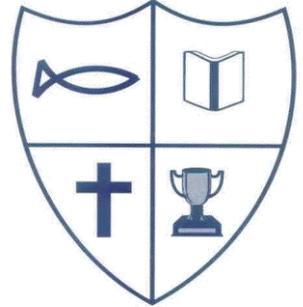


Addendum to Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy



COVID-19 school reopening arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Aughnacloy Primary School

August 2020

Signed: _____ Chair, Board of Governors

Principal: _____ Principal

1. Context

Safeguarding principles:

‘As children return, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately as set out in the policy
- a DT or DDT should be available
- 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’

Staff will continue to follow the Child Protection procedure and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any child, whether in school or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Children’s services may be affected by the impact of the virus on staff and an increased demand for services. Where a child is at risk of significant harm there may be a need to be persistent in referring concerns to the local authority. The arrangements for contacting gateway are:

This addendum of the Aughnacloy Primary School Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas listed below:

The addendum will be reviewed by our Designated Teacher (DT), Karen Moore, or our Deputy Designated Teacher (DDT), Ian Mills, as circumstances continue to evolve or following updated Department for Education advice or guidance. It has been approved by our Board of Governors and staff have read and considered its implications.

Vulnerable children

Aughnacloy Primary School 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 and the local authority for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to school, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Aughnacloy Primary School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Aughnacloy Primary School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by the Public Health Agency.

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/new-vulnerable-children-guidance-published-schools-and-parents>

Attendance monitoring

Aughnacloy Primary School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether Children in Need should be attending school and will follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

To support the above, Aughnacloy Primary will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, 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 their social worker will be notified.

- Children and young people are strongly encouraged to attend (where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending
- children, young people and staff who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been

advised to shield. We do not expect people in this category to be attending school or college, and they should continue to be supported to learn or work at home as much as possible.

- a child/young person or a member of staff who lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, can attend their education or childcare setting
- if a child/young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, as set out in the guidance on shielding, it is advised they only attend an education or childcare setting if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, if they are able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social distancing. If stringent social distancing cannot be adhered to, we do not expect those individuals to attend. They should be supported to learn or work at home
- staff and children or young people should not attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household

For those pupils eligible to attend, schools should address absence by sensitively exploring parents' and pupils' concerns and what is preventing attendance and work with them to re-engage pupils where appropriate. Families should notify the school as normal if their child is unable to attend. Schools should also continue to follow up with any parent or carer whose child has been expected to attend and doesn't.

Reporting a concern

Staff must be mindful that new concerns may be identified as children start to return to school following closures. Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Child Protection Policy, this includes making a report to the DT, Karen Moore.

Staff will be aware of increased risk

The pressures on children and their families at 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 are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Mental Health

Aughnacloy Primary School recognises that negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of our children and their parents. With children returning to school from the school will ensure appropriate support is in place for them. The school understand that mental health issues can bring about changes in a child's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, all of which could be an indication of an underlying problem. This can include for example being fearful or withdrawn; aggressive or oppositional; or excessive clinginess.

Support for pupils and students in the current circumstances will include existing provision in the school, although this may be delivered in different ways, (for example over the phone for those children still not attending provision) or from specialist staff or support services.

Aughnacloy Primary School will ensure that teachers are aware of the impact the current circumstances can have on the mental health of those students/pupils (and their parents) who are continuing to work from home, including when setting expectations of children's' work.

Online safety in schools and colleges

Aughnacloy Primary School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online as outlined in our e-safety and ICT policies.

Children and online safety away from school and college

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the school code of conduct.

Aughnacloy Primary School will use Dojo and ensure any other use of online learning tools and systems is within the C2k Network and therefore in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. ***E-safety will be adhered to and Google Classroom and Class Dojo will be used ONLY for online learning and contact.***

Supporting children in school

Aughnacloy Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students and will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.

The school 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 Agency on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

This policy has been remotely approved by Governors on [] and is available on the school website.