COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Etonbury Academy

1. Context

From 20th 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, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This addendum of the Etonbury Academy Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Isobel Whent	01462 730391	iwhent@bestacademies.org.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Tanya McErlean	01462 730391	tmcerlean@bestacademies.org.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Michael Craddock	01462 730391	mcraddock@bestacademies.org.uk
Headteacher	Ian Evason	01462 730391	ievason@bestacademies.org.uk
Safeguarding lead and Vice Chair of Governors	John Christopher		jchristopher@bestacademies.org.uk

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 with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Etonbury Academy 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 virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be: Tanya McErlean and Isobel Whent for all children with an allocated social worker and Michael Craddock for all looked-after and previously looked after children.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Etonbury Academy will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Etonbury Academy will share the names of those attending with allocated social workers to discuss their views on attendance/non-attendance.

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

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.

Etonbury Academy and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – EtonburyAcademy will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. All children with an allocated social worker will be contacted by members of the safeguarding team to inform of attendance. DSL will update social workers of any changes.

To support the above, Etonbury Academy 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, Etonbury Academy will notify their social worker.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Etonbury Academy has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Isobel Whent

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Tanya McErlean and Michael Craddock

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, CPOMS and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

It is important that all Etonbury staff and volunteers 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 and safeguarding team will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via CPOMS, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home, they should email the DSL and DDSL. This will 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 they should continue to follow the academy policy.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Sarah ByGrave

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.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Etonbury Academy, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. This may be conducted remotely.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we 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, Etonbury Academy 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.

Where Etonbury Academy are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Etonbury Academy 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.

Etonbury Academy 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 should 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, Etonbury Academy will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Online safety in schools and colleges

Etonbury Academy will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Children and online safety away from school and college

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

Online teaching should follow the same principles.

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

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons:

- No 1:1s, groups only
- Language must be professional and appropriate.
- As stated by the Principal teachers should follow guidance;
- Only communicate through @best account
- Not to communicate with any students using your personal email account.
- Not to use ANY webcam or skyping to classes - the technology is there, but the safeguarding for you is not.
- Email onl
- Not to use your personal social media platforms to communicate anything to do with school/setting of work
- If any concerns regarding a student's comments should arise, record on CPOMs. A member of the safeguarding team will then contact home.

Supporting children not in school

Etonbury Academy 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 plan (student check-ins google doc) is shared with all relevant staff and is updated on a regular basis. All contact made a RAGGED by the DSL and DDSL to understand patterns of concern. The student check-ins frequency and method is confirmed with student and parent. Those flagging as a concern is discussed in the remote safeguarding meeting, where next steps are planned. Students are considered "red" if contact has not been able to be made or if the student is struggling with the current situation. If a safeguarding concern is raised, this is to be logged on CPOMS in line with the school's child protection policy.

The check-ins can include; remote contact, email contact or phone contact. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded in discussion with the DSL and DDSL

Etonbury Academy and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website, through Parentmail and through the daily bulletin with staff.

Etonbury Academy 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. Teachers at Etonbury Academy need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Etonbury Academy 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.

Supporting children in school

Etonbury Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

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

Etonbury Academy 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.

Etonbury Academy 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. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

Where Etonbury Academy has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – will discuss them immediately with the trust.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Etonbury Academy recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims**.**

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 Policy.

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

Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

Addendum added: 30th March 2020
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