

# Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy Addendum in Response to Covid-19

## April 2020

**This Addendum is based on DfE guidance  
'Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in  
schools, colleges and other provider' March  
2020:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

# Child Protection Policy Addendum in response to Covid-19

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*This addendum will be reviewed following any updates to national and local guidance and procedures and reshared as required. Each Academy within the EKC Schools Trust will follow this policy throughout the Covid-19 situation and will personalise the policy to reflect their individual circumstances. This Addendum to the Policy will be shared with all EKC Schools Trust staff and Local Governors. The full Policy on Safeguarding and Child Protection remains in place and this Addendum provides adjustments due to the current circumstances in which the EKC Schools Trust and its Academies are operating.*

## 1. Context

- On 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, as part of the response to coronavirus (COVID-19). Schools and 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.
- The way each Academy in the EKC Schools Trust is currently operating in response to coronavirus is fundamentally different, however, our safeguarding principles in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) 2019, remain the same:
  - the best interests of children will always come first
  - if anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
  - a DSL or deputy DSL is available
  - 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

## 2. Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

- Each Academy will ensure there is a DSL contactable for staff and parents. In the majority of cases a trained DSL is on site when there are pupils on site. Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader on a rota basis will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This will include updating safeguarding files and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school/college.
- All staff and volunteers on-site will have access to a trained DSL (or deputy) and know on any given day who that person is, and how they can speak to them.
- The DSL/Deputy DSL's will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

## 3. Vulnerable children

- Ensuring that vulnerable children remain protected is a top priority for all the Academies within the EKC Schools Trust

- 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. Please see DfE guidance for further information on [vulnerable children](#).
- There is an expectation that children with a social worker will attend a provision, unless in consultation with the child's social worker and family it is agreed this is not in the best interests of the child. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, professionals will talk through these worries with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.
- Children with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents and a decision will be made about whether they should continue to attend school.
- Each Academy has the flexibility to offer a place to other learners who may also be considered vulnerable.
- If vulnerable children are not attending school, we will regularly keep in contact by telephone with them.
- Each Academy will continue to work with those professionals involved with children and share relevant information with them such as social workers, early help workers and virtual school heads (VSH). This is especially important during the COVID-19 period.
  - This will include information about attendance and any welfare concerns.
  - If there is a safeguarding concern, this will be shared with the relevant professional as soon as possible.

#### **4. Reporting concerns**

- All staff will continue to look out for any signs that indicate a child may be at risk, both on and off site, including online.
  - If a member of staff/volunteer has any safeguarding concerns about a child, this will be reported to the DSL as soon as possible.
  - If the concern is urgent, the member of staff/volunteer will speak to a DSL in person or via phone/video call if they are not on site, immediately.
  - In the event a member of staff or volunteer cannot make contact with a DSL, this will not delay them taking immediate action to safeguard a child.
  - Each Academy will provide information to staff and parents on who to contact to raise or share a concern.
- Where staff are concerned about an adult working with learners, they should report the concern to the headteacher or senior member of staff who is acting on behalf of the headteacher
  - If there are concerns about any member of staff or volunteer, the LADO service will be consulted with.
  - Concerns around the headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors.

#### **5. Safeguarding training and induction**

- DSL training is 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.
- Formal DSL refresher training will be undertaken as soon as possible. DSLs will continue to keep their knowledge up to date through other means.
- All existing staff have read KCSIE 2019 Part 1 and accessed safeguarding training.

- Staff will be made aware if any processes have changed with the sharing of this addendum and the DSL will communicate any changes to local processes directly.

## 6. Supporting children in school

- Each Academy within the EKC Schools Trust is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its learners
- Each Academy will be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. A senior member of staff will ensure that there are appropriate staff on site and that staff to learner ratios have been considered to maximise the safety of children.
- Each Academy will follow the current government guidance in relation to social distancing and all matters relating to public health from the respective websites and outlets

### Online safety

The EKC Schools Trust expectations with regards to online behaviour and education when using Academy provided devices or internet access on site will continue to be implemented in line with existing policies. Any concerns regarding onsite online behaviour or use will be responded to in line with existing policies.

Academies please add any changes to your Acceptable Use Agreement you have put in place for staff during this time.

### Online safety away from School

- All staff will continue to look out for any signs that indicate a child may be at risk online and will report and respond to concerns in line with the Child Protection Policy addendum.
- Where necessary, referrals will be made to LADO, children's social care and as required, the police.
- Each Academy will ensure that clear guidance and support is provided for parents and carers through whatever online means they have available and will share websites and links to support for all members of the community
- All communication with learners and parents/carers will take place using Academy provided or approved communication channels
- Each Academy will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.
- When delivering remote learning, staff will:
  - Only use online tools that have been evaluated and agreed by leadership.
  - Ensure remote learning activities are planned in accordance with our curriculum policies, taking learner needs and technology access into account.
  - Where possible, pre-record content.

Academies to review and add their code of conduct and expectations if they are planning any 'live' online teaching and interface between pupils and staff