

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY ANNEX MARCH 2020

From the Government information published March 27th 2020

KCSIE is statutory safeguarding guidance that schools and colleges should continue to have regard to as per their legislative duty and/or funding agreement requirements.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

The way schools and colleges 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 in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately*
- a Designated Senior Leader or deputy 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*

Ensuring that vulnerable children remain protected is a top priority for the government. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with EHC plans, read more in the [guidance on vulnerable children and young people](#) for further information.

During the time of school closure, the school will continue to be mindful of the Government advice around safeguarding with regards to those students at home as well as the small number who are attending school (children of key workers or vulnerable children as defined by the government)

The following measures have been put into place by the school to ensure that safeguarding and the wellbeing of all its community members remains a high priority

- ✓ The school is offering in school provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable children (see link above for definition of 'vulnerable' children)
- ✓ Form tutors, Directors of Learning and Key Workers (those staff responsible for coordinating support for named young people) are contacting young people on a regular basis to check they are well and managing with home learning. This includes telephone contact with any child who has not accessed or logged into ShowMyHomework
- ✓ The Wellbeing team have a list of identified young people and families who are being contacted on at least a weekly basis. The Directors of Learning for each Year group are coordinating and monitoring this
- ✓ All families have email addresses for subjects, Directors of Learning for Years and Subject Leaders, SEND and Wellbeing so that help or support can be sought by families
- ✓ A safeguarding email has been set up by the school and issued to all parents/carers through parentmail- safeguarding@townsend.herts.sch.uk. The email account is being checked daily by a Designated Senior Leader or Deputy DSL
- ✓ For in-school provision the staff rota ensures that a DSL or Deputy DSL is either on site or is accessible by telephone contact for each day
- ✓ The additional guidance around safeguarding issued the Department of Education and the Local Authority has been circulated to the team of Designated Senior Leaders and Deputies
- ✓ The school is continuing to liaise by phone, email and video conferencing with all external agencies supporting the young people at Townsend. This includes the Multi Safeguarding Hub, Family Worker, Behaviour Support worker, Safe Space counselling, Virtual School, Local Authority Attendance Officer, YC Hertfordshire, Luton Family worker, Luton CAMHS etc.

- ✓ The DSL is continuing to respond to any referrals/enquiries from Children's Services regarding any assessments
- ✓ All families receiving FSM have received at least one visit by a member of the school staff. Many families have received more than one visit.
- ✓ The school has sent supermarket gift cards to all families in receipt of FSM and has registered with the Government scheme of E-vouchers that will be issued regularly to families. Those not able to access online E-vouchers are being sent the voucher codes by post
- ✓ The school is using parentmail to regularly update parents/carers about safety on-line and emotional wellbeing. This includes resources and links to a variety of organisations and resources to support children and parents/carers
- ✓ All Townsend staff have received a reminder about their safeguarding roles and responsibilities during this time of school closure; whether they are working from home or working on the school site. This includes the need to report any child protection concerns or concerns about any adults who may pose a risk to a young person. Guidance has also been issued to staff about their own safe practice with regards to working online at home.

REMINDER TOWNSEND SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Mr Wellbeloved (Headteacher) Miss Lingwood (Deputy Headteacher and Senior Designated Lead for Child Protection), Miss Gibbons (Assistant Head and Deputy Designated Leader for Child Protection), Mr Buckland (Assistant Head Deputy Designated Leader for Child Protection) Miss Gordon (Director of Learning for Year 8 and Deputy Designated Leader for Child Protection) and Mrs Brooks (Assistant Head and Deputy Designated Leader for Child Protection)

Contact any of the above through safeguarding@townsend.herts.sch.uk or during term ring the school office between 9.00-12.00pm 01727853047 to speak to someone

OTHER CONTACTS

If you are concerned that a child may be at imminent risk if significant harm, please call 999 for the Police
[For children living in Hertfordshire](#)

Child Protection referrals can also be made through the Hertfordshire Customer Service Centre 03001234043 or by submitting a Child Protection Contact Referral online

Child Protection School Liaison Officer: Paula Hayden 019925562710

[For children living in Luton](#)

Child Protection referrals can be made on line

https://www.luton.gov.uk/Health_and_social_care/safeguarding/safeguarding_children/Pages/default.aspx or by ringing 01582 547653. Out of hours 0300 3008 123