



Oak Lodge School

Arrangements for Child Protection and Safeguarding during Covid19 pandemic

addendum 2 – May 2020

This document updates the previous extraordinary amendment to the school Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy in relation to the current pandemic and sets out safeguarding arrangements in preparation for the planned return to school of more children. This is additional to, and complements, the main policy and the previous amendment.

This is operational from 1st June 2020 and may be subject to further amendments as the situation changes

Introduction

From 1st June 2020 Government have required that schools begin to phase in a return to attendance at school for pupils as set out below:

Primary Schools

Pupils in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6, alongside priority groups

Secondary schools, sixth form and FE colleges

Some face to face support for Y10 and Y12 pupils, alongside priority groups

Alternative Provision Settings

As for mainstream schools, and face to face contact for Y11 pupils in addition

Special schools, special post-16 institutions and hospital schools

Phased return without specific focus on year groups

Preparation

The school is following advice from the Government, Public Health England, the Local Authority and the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership in order to maintain the safeguarding and welfare of all pupils and staff.

Prior to pupils returning to school in greater numbers the school has carried out the recommended risk assessments and put strategies in place in relation to

- Class sizes and placing children in small groups with consistent adults
- Timetabling and consideration of any adjustments needed to the curriculum
- Reorganising classrooms to support social distancing measures
- Movement around the building
- Utilising outdoor space whenever possible
- Staggered arrival and departure times
- Staggered break and lunch arrangements

- Reducing 'pinch points'
- Enhanced cleaning regimes
- Ensuring children understand the need for good hygiene and that adequate facilities are provided for this
- Removed unnecessary items and any items which are hard to clean
- Responding if any pupil or staff member becomes unwell while on site

The School have also

- Liaised with social workers for any vulnerable pupils who have not been taking up the offer of a place in school – the expectation is that all these children will return to attendance at school (unless it is agreed by their social worker that there are exceptional circumstances preventing this)
- Carried out individual risk assessments for those with an EHCP – the expectation is that attendance is expected for all these pupils provided that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
- Assessed the well-being of staff members, made arrangements for continued working from home for those who cannot return to school due to medical need, and ensured that additional support is available for any staff members who need it
- Reminded all staff members of safeguarding processes and procedures and what to do if they have concerns about a pupil or about a colleague
- Informed parents of the arrangements made, including when their child can return, their child's timetable, any specific requirements around drop off and pick up times (the expectation is that only one adult accompanies each child at these times and parents do not congregate)

When pupils return

The school recognises that many pupils will have been affected by aspects of the pandemic and the lockdown and many will require additional support. Some pupils may have experienced bereavements of close family members, others may have suffered abuse or neglect which they have not been able to disclose. Many pupils will have experienced anxiety or distress due to the overall situation, things they have seen on social media or been told, been impacted on by difficulties their families have experienced in relation to financial matters or other family issues. Some pupils may find it difficult to settle back into the academic structure of school and some may experience difficulties with peer relationships after a lengthy period of isolation from others their own age.

All staff will be alert to signs of stress in pupils and enable pupils to talk about how they are feeling. Any safeguarding concerns will be passed to the DSL (or deputy DSLs) promptly and any necessary referrals made to the relevant agencies or services. Additional support will be provided for pupils in school where appropriate and available.

All parents / carers will be asked to inform the school if their child has experienced any key family changes (eg bereavements, changes in contact with key adults, significant events, health difficulties etc) so that school staff can ensure they can be effectively supported.

Any emerging concerns will be discussed with parents in the usual way, unless the information known leads the DSL to believe this could place a pupil at risk of immediate and further harm, in which case a referral will be made to MASH without delay.

Intimate care needs and use of PPE

Government guidance states that schools should not require either staff or pupils to wear face masks in school.

PPE will only be used in situations where intimate care needs of individual pupils routinely involve use of PPE or if a pupil or adult develops symptoms while on site and this is necessary (see below)

Pupils or staff becoming unwell while on site

If a pupil becomes unwell with coronavirus symptoms while on site, the parent will be contacted and expected to collect their child. If the pupil needs direct personal care until they can return home / be collected the school will take appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of staff members dealing with the matter, which may include use of PPE as well as ensuring the pupil is isolated from others, preferably in a closed space which is well ventilated. Similar precautions will be taken if a member of staff develops symptoms on site.

Any pupil with symptoms should not attend and should be kept at home according to regulations. Parents should inform school at the earliest opportunity if this is the case and testing should be arranged. If the child is confirmed as having Covid19, the rest of their class or group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

Any staff member who develops symptoms should access a test for Covid19 as soon as possible. School staff are essential workers and are given priority for testing. Education settings can also book tests on behalf of staff members through the online portal.

Pupils remaining at home

Those who are not returning to school initially will continue to be offered educational input and regular contact in line with policy and guidance. Safeguarding measures as detailed in previous policy documents will be maintained for this group of pupils.