

Annex to Ditton Primary Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy as a result of partial school closure in response to COVID-19

Key Roles in the Welfare Team:

- **DSLs:** Emma Fenton (HOS), Alex McKune (DHT)
- **Sendco:** Danielle Pauls/Emma Fenton
- **Mental Health Lead: G Oldfield (Mental Health first aider G Oldfield and T Lightfoot)**
- **Pastoral Lead:** G Oldfield
- **Pastoral Assistant:** Stella Hardman
- **Chair of Governors and Safeguarding Governor:** Denise Lee and Tamzin Vickery

Either a trained DSL will be on site and/or available **at all times** via phone/ online (working from home).

There have been significant changes within our setting and within the UK in response to the outbreak of COVID-19. This annex sets out some of the adjustments Ditton Primary School has made in line with the changed procedures in the school following advice from government, the Local Authority and local agencies.

The current position is that, following the Government announcement, all schools are partially closed and the majority of timetables have been moved to online learning. Only a very limited number of children should attend to reduce the risk and these fall into two categories:

1. Children of key workers but **only** for times when parents/carers **absolutely** need their children to be in school. It is imperative to minimise interaction between people as this will reduce the risk of infection so if it is at all possible for an alternative to be made, we would not expect the child not to come into school.
2. Some vulnerable children who have been identified during the risk assessment process undertaken by CSC. This will be reviewed and updated and only children identified as becoming at risk of abuse/significant harm will be added.

Despite the changes, the school's Safeguarding Policy is fundamentally the same: the welfare of children always comes first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and referrals should continue to be made and followed up in line with our established safeguarding procedure.

We have undertaken an exercise to re-categorise children who were on the VCR (Vulnerable Child Register) at the point of the Government announcement and this will be revisited weekly during this crisis.

1. **For children in care, subject to a Child Protection Plan and Child In Need Plan, and who have an allocated social worker:** contact will be made by the safeguarding team twice a week, including speaking to the parent/carer and the child, and there will be regular (at least once a week) contact with the allocated social worker either by email or telephone. If there is a concern, school will attempt to contact the social worker to resolve this. If the social worker cannot be contacted, then a referral will be made to the ICART team the same day. Concerns will include being unable to contact the family for three consecutive days.
2. **For families with an Early Help Assessment** contact will be made by the safeguarding team twice a week, including speaking to the parent/carer and the child, and there will be contact with other agencies involved. If there is a concern, the welfare team will attempt to contact the family and other agencies or refer to the ICART Team, as appropriate. Concerns will include being unable to contact the family for three consecutive day without explanation.
3. **School concerns not meeting external thresholds** contact will be made initially by the class teacher during day to day teaching. If any concerns arise or the child is not taking part for a by the activities for three consecutive days this will be flagged to the Welfare Team who will follow this up as appropriate to the individual case. The class teacher will report weekly back to the Welfare Team about each child.
4. **General school population** Class teachers will monitor engagement with on line learning daily. If children are not taking part regularly a call will be made to parents. If contact cannot be made over a period of time, more than a week, then this will be flagged to the Welfare Team who will follow this up as appropriate to the individual case.
5. **For children with an EHCP** Contact will be made weekly by the Sendco to review current arrangements. The Sendco has worked with parents to complete an individual risk assessment for each child to ensure needs are met and families supported. These risk assessments will be reviewed as appropriate. Any support needed can be delivered through individual arrangements based on curriculum activity.

6. **For children with an IHCP** contact will be made weekly by the medical lead or Sendco. Individual risk assessments have been made in consultation with parents/carers. (no child currently has one of these).

Attendance

At present the usual day-to-day attendance processes, including following up on non-attendance are not being completed. We will follow up on any vulnerable child (see CSC risk assessment) who we are expecting to attend but does not. In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, we will notify their social worker. We will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their children and the children subsequently do not attend.

The DFE daily online attendance form and LA registers are completed to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. This allows for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allows schools to provide accurate, up-to-date data on the number of children taking up places.

Reporting arrangements: The school arrangements continue in line with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Please report via the DSL or pastoral team as appropriate.

We will be operating during normal business hours, 8.30am – 4pm (Mon – Thurs) and 8.30am – 3.30pm (Friday).

We have confirmed the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authorities remain unchanged:

- Halton's Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) **Telephone:** 0151 511 7229
<https://children.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/contact-us/>

Staff should continue to follow the safeguarding procedures 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 children people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Normal safeguarding procedures apply for referrals to children's services. This contact will go through a member of the safeguarding team (listed above) who will follow appropriate measures in seeking the appropriate and necessary support. Out of hours guidance can be found in the Safeguarding Guidance 2019-20 and also here:

<https://children.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/contact-us/>

Mental Health

Restrictions to movement and contact with other people means pupils are more likely to be at risk of mental health problems. We have children friendly information that we will share as appropriate, produced with CAMHS and we have informed our children and their families where further support can be found. The Department for Education have produced guidance to support parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

The following organisations can also provide support:

www.kooth.com – *Free online emotional wellbeing and counselling with self-help articles*

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helping-someone-else/>

Calm Harm App – A phone app providing help for those who use self-harm as a coping strategy;

<https://calmharm.co.uk/>