



## Benedict Biscop CE Academy

### Addendum to Child Protection Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19

**This is a revised addendum to your Child Protection Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19 and the phased return of more children into the school/setting from June 15th 2020. This is to be read and understood in conjunction with our current Child Protection Policy.**

Due to the current unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 virus it is necessary that all schools are prepared and have appropriate arrangements in place in relation to the management of any safeguarding or child protection concerns both on and off site during this time and following the phased return of more children to the school. Therefore, we have produced this revised addendum to our existing school's Child Protection Policy Template to ensure all staff, Governors and Parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time. This will be reviewed regularly in light of continuing changes.

The principles of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 continue to determine the expectations of schools and settings in keeping children safe in school at this time and include:

- the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL 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

#### Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies

On Site: While our school site remains open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are (Sarah Armstrong, Gemma Clark, Emma Whelam Tate and Lorraine Norton) and continue to be our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies due to their level of training and skill. However due to these unprecedented circumstances all DSLs may not physically be on our school site every day. Currently in place the following named individuals will not all be physically on site each day, from the 1<sup>st</sup> June at least one DSL or Deputy will be on site at all times.

While we are closed to certain year groups our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will continue to remain in contact with those children who we deem are vulnerable or have a multi-agency statutory plan in place to safeguard them.

#### Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children

The Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are fully aware of their vulnerable children and those they are expecting into school each day, should that child not arrive then the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy will make contact with the parent or carer immediately and if no response contact front door services immediately.

Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will continue to contact vulnerable children and their families in the following timescales if the school is closed or these children are not on site: children the subject of a Child Protection Plan (daily), children who have a Child in Need Plan (twice weekly), Looked After Children (twice weekly dependent on the child's individual placement needs) or children with an Early Help Plan (weekly). If there are any issues raised during this time regarding their care, safety or ability to be contacted then the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will follow their local safeguarding procedures and contact their local front door services immediately (as per our Child Protection Policy).

Together For Children contact:

- **0191 520 5560** 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday to Thursday and 8:30am to 4:30pm Friday
- Or the Out of Hours Team on **0191 520 5552** (also available 24 hours Saturday and Sunday)
- **In an emergency always call 999**

#### Availability and contact arrangements for families and professionals who wish to make contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies

During these unprecedented circumstances the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be available to be contacted by children, families and other services and agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all our vulnerable children. They can be contacted via the school telephone number in the first instance and whether they are on or off site they will gain contact with any family or professional as soon as possible.

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day 9am-3:30pm ONLY. Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving calls and messages outside of these times. In the event that children or families need support immediately please contact our front door services immediately (as per the information within the Child Protection Policy) or contact the Police.

Designated Safeguarding Leads will continue to work with the local authority, social workers, local authority designated officer/DO and Virtual Headteacher, upon the phased return of more children to school. This will involve, communicating and liaising information about children, updated advice received regarding children with

education, health and care (EHC) plans, changes to reporting mechanisms or referral thresholds and additional support required for any child with a multi-agency plan or intervention.

#### Response to safeguarding or child protection concerns

As always our school's duty of care is to keep children safe and while the arrangements of the physical care of children and physical presence of our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies may be different during this time the school's response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school's Child Protection Policy.

Upon the return of more children to school, staff may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children, for example disclosures of risk of harm, peer on peer abuse or any negative experiences during the time of lockdown and isolation. Staff should be clear that they must continue to follow our school's Child Protection Policy and report concerns immediately regarding any child to the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Once verbally reported this should be documented following our school's recording procedures [on Cpoms]. Every effort to gain accurate information from the parent and child on their return to school should be taken including, health, mental health, peer on peer abuse and any changes in circumstances.

#### Response to safeguarding concerns regarding adults in school

As stated in our school's Child Protection Policy, any concerns that may be raised regarding any adult's behaviour in school towards a child should be reported immediately to the Headteacher.

#### Support for children who remain home schooled

Continued arrangements will remain in place for those children who are home schooled. Regular, agreed contact will remain in place for those children and their parents, including checking on their online activity and how they are supported and supervised at home.

#### Attendance Procedures

Although attendance of children at school during this time is not statutory. Regular contact with children who are vulnerable should be maintained and actioned as stated above.

Revised 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020.