

Child Protection Covid-19 Amendment

LA Advice: This guidance is offered to all Sefton schools by the Education Improvement team and Schools Safeguarding. The purpose is, in line with the developing national advice and guidance to help schools continue to develop a plan to support and safeguard their vulnerable children and families. 'Guidance for schools, childcare providers, colleges and local authorities in England on maintaining educational provision' Published 19 March 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining--provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The current situation is unprecedented and open to change so plans will be reassessed and reviewed regularly. We have been requested to offer continuing child care support to children who have parents who are 'key' workers in the critical sectors as defined in the government list, as well as vulnerable children, outlined below.

Schools, and all childcare providers, are therefore being asked to continue 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.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Raising Concerns:

- If staff need to raise a safeguarding concern they will use the normal recording procedures CPOMs.
- The safeguarding team will receive an alert following the incident report.
- A member of the team will contact the staff member to confirm receipt of the concern.
- The team will discuss the concern and follow the appropriate procedures and provide feedback to staff.
- In the event that a MARF needs to be completed this would be carried out in the usual way by Mr M O' Brien or Mrs C Proffitt following discussion with the Headteacher and the relevant MASH team.
- During this period of time staff should only use CPOMs or school email systems to report safeguarding concerns. Whatsapp or other social media platforms should not be used.

DSL:

- There will be a member of the safeguarding team in school 5 days a week. If for any reason, there is not a DSL on site, any of the following staff should be contacted if you have a safeguarding concern.

Mrs C Roberts (DSL)	Head.holyspirit@schools.sefton.gov.uk
Mr M O'Brien (Deputy DSL) Deputy Headteacher	Obrienm.holyspirit@schools.sefton.gov.uk
Mrs C Proffitt (Deputy DSL)	Proffitc.holyspirit@schools.sefton.gov.uk

Working with Social Workers, Virtual School and other External Agencies:

- C Roberts, M O'Brien and C Proffit have the appropriate mobile telephone numbers and emails to remain in contact with the appropriate people during this time.

Peer on Peer Abuse (online): School are aware that children away from school and in their homes, will probably be spending more time on line, therefore school will:

- Revisit and reinforce online safety advice and resources with both parents and children.
- Sign post to resources and information provided by

CEOP and www.IWF.org.uk

Supporting Our Vulnerable Children (those without EHCP or Social Worker)

A centralised list of children who

- 1) May require further support in school,
 - 2) Meet the governments vulnerable criteria but parents have made the decision to keep them at home will be contacted on a weekly basis by C Proffit or M O'Brien.
- A record of these telephone calls will be kept centrally on the school's shared drive.
 - Class teachers will make contact with each child in their class once a week via email or telephone call. Again a record of these contacts will be kept centrally on the school's shared drive.

Free School Meals

- School will sign post families who access FSM to the relevant means of selecting and receiving lunch vouchers for the retailer of their choice. Alternatively, during isolation, children that are eligible for free school meals will receive a meal for each day that they are absent from school.
- Vulnerable groups also include children who would normally access free school meals or who could require additional support e.g. those facing financial difficulties.
- School will offer a range of support for those families who need it e.g. food parcels, signposting to food banks, referring to agencies for food/financial support. This will be operated through our Learning Mentor.
- School will also consider creating kindness packages which could be sent to families where closure could impact on mental health to let them know you are thinking about them e.g. personalised messages, food and essentials, family activities, mindful colouring activities, recipe ideas, etc.

SEND

This cohort of children are particularly vulnerable in terms of safeguarding not only because of the additional needs intrinsic to the child, but also in relation to abuse and neglect.

- SENCo to consider what additional requirements children with SEND have in terms of safeguarding.

- Ensure staff are fully aware of the additional safeguarding vulnerabilities of SEND children.

Keeping Staff Safe

Efforts to safeguard children will also ensure the safety of the staff. It is important that staff know about key safeguarding messages in relation to Safer Working Practice. It is more likely that staff will be having virtual contact with children and families via e-mail, zoom or phone.

- Staff need to be aware of safer practice if they are communicating directly with families and children especially on line or working from home.
- In line with the school Acceptable Use Policy, staff should not be contacting children and families using social media and from personal devices.
- All contact with children and families should be recorded on the appropriate school system (Found on Shared drive). If staff are working from home, they will still have access to school systems and documentation via shared drive. We know this is a difficult time for all of our school community and that staff themselves will be anxious in terms of their role and also in relation to their own family needs.
- Staff will be made aware of the guidance relating to self-isolation procedures for themselves. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>
- Staff need to be aware of to their safety and wellbeing, school will also consider signposting to support services such as Samaritans etc.
- Risk assessments will be carried out for staff who may fall into a vulnerable group, and look deploy their skills in a way which reduces their contact with others.
- Staff will be made aware of their roles and responsibilities in these exceptional circumstances, and the value of flexibility when approaching the offer schools are being asked to make to key groups and vulnerable children.

Mental Health

At this time of uncertainty, both children and the adults around them may experience anxiety and have worries. Children will be hearing about the coronavirus so it is important they have access to factual information.

- Through regular contact staff will support families whose children may be experiencing anxieties and worries. Staff may signpost to various resources; Newsround has some excellent resources, as has Child Mind Institute and Mindheart
- The DSL and Deputy DSL may signpost families to access support and resources such as, Childline, Calmzone, Go Noodle, Headspace if it is required.
- <https://youngminds.org.uk/> Sign Posting to Support for Families Additional information regarding services available in Sefton can be found via Sefton Family Information Services. <https://www.seftoninfo.co.uk> Services and resources not mentioned previously

Domestic Abuse support services and resources

Women's Aid <https://www.womensaid.org.uk>

The First Step www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/content/knowsley-domestic-violence-support-services

School Nurse

Whilst the response to covid-19 is requiring us all to reduce social contact, we are aware that some pupils or parents may still have other concerns which they would like to speak to a School Nurse about. The School Nurses are still available and their area contact details can be found on their website www.nwbh.nhs.uk/school-nurses-sefton

Early Help team

Early Help is about taking action as soon as possible to tackle problems for children and families before they can grow into something that is more difficult to overcome. It is about identifying children and families that may be at risk of running into difficulties and providing timely and effective support.

There will be times when children and families need support and times they are not sure what they need to do to make things better. Early Help can support them at these times and make problems easier to understand and quicker to solve

MASH team

0151 934 4013/ 4481

Sefton LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

0151 934 3783

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) works within Children's Services and gives advice and guidance to employers, organisations and other individuals who have concerns about the behaviour of an adult who works with children and young people.