



Covid-19 Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Addendum 1st April 2020

Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable (those with a named social worker), children with an EHCP or in receipt of High Needs funding and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Key contacts

Role	Name	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Kalash Thakor	kalash.thakor@plashet.newham.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Frances Gell Patricia St. Louis	frances.gell@plashet.newham.sch.uk patricia.stlouis@plashet.newham.sch.uk
Head Teacher	Rachel McGowan	rachel.mcgowan@plashet.newham.sch.uk
Chair of Governors & Safeguarding Link Governor	Irene Papadopoulos	irenepapadopoulos@btinternet.com

This addendum of the Plashtet School Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements during school semi-closure. If during the course of our school semi-closure you have any concerns regarding child protection and/or safeguarding issues, which may arise either from your contacts with students, or from information passed on to you in the course of your work, please do not hesitate to report these concerns ASAP. During the school semi-closure all safeguarding issues should be reported as normal through our Safeguard system, this link will take you to the login page: <https://app.safeguard.software/auth.asp?page=login> or for those external to the school via safeguarding@plashet.newham.sch.uk

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan, Child in Need Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Plashet Safeguarding team continues to make children's social services, Early Help and MASH referrals.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. Kalash Thakor, Frances Gell and Patricia St Louis are in contact with the most vulnerable students as well as their social workers. Records are kept in terms of when contact is made. Staff who attend Plashet Team around the Child meetings are regularly updated about the progress and wellbeing of these students.

Plashet School will continue to work to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (Val Naylor) for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. The Head Teacher or, in her absence, her PA will make the DfE daily return by 12 noon for those students on-site.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Plashet has a strategic Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL – Assistant Head Teacher) and a Deputy Designated DSL for each key stage.

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case, a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

It is important that all Plashet staff have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). All staff should continue to use our Safeguard system for logging concerns.

The DSL's will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy; this includes making a report via our Safeguard system.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

If staff have concerns about a staff member who may pose a risk to children, they should follow the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and contact Rachel McGowan, Head Teacher (via email) immediately. If the concern pertains to the Head Teacher then the issue should be raised with the Chair of Governors via email.

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID-19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) as well as Plashet's Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy, Staff Code of Conduct and Whistleblowing Policy. Our DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction albeit remotely in some cases.

Safer recruitment /volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Plashet will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes including, as appropriate, relevant sections in Part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

Plashet School will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

Plashet School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National Emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Plashet School will continue to keep the Single Central Record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Online safety

Plashet School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system for any school computer and IT equipment being used off site.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Children and online safety away from school

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police. Staff should contact the school safeguarding team via Safeguard.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the Plashet School Code of Conduct.

Plashet School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Protocols for working remotely during Covid-19 pandemic.

These protocols are Plashet School Policy and are expected to be adhered to. The protocols are designed to support and protect staff and safeguard students.

Communication between staff and students can only be through:

- School email.
- Google Classrooms.
- Google Hangouts – staff only.

Supporting children not in school

Plashet School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of students and their parents. Teachers should be aware of this in setting expectations of students' work where they are at home. If you have any concerns about a student in terms of their mental health or emotional wellbeing please report this matter via the Safeguard system. Appropriate action can then be taken to ensure the wellbeing of the young person.

Resources to support the emotional wellbeing of our students are available via the Wellbeing Google Classroom. The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and via parentmail communications.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they will ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that student. Details of this plan must be recorded on Safeguard, as should a record of contact made.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, doorstep visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Plashet School recognises that school is a protective factor for its young women, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of girls and their parents/carers. Teachers at Plashet need to be aware of this in setting expectations of students' work where they are at home.

Supporting children in school

Plashet will continue to be a safe space for students to attend and flourish. The Head Teacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to student ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Plashet School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

Plashet School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Where Plashet has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – the Head Teacher will discuss this with the Chair of Governors as well as the London Borough of Newham.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Plashet School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where Plashet School receives a report of peer on peer abuse, we will follow the principles as set out in Part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi- agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions must be reported via our Safeguard system.