

# COVID-19 Appendix: Child Protection Policy

This amendment should be read in conjunction with the Whaley Thorns safeguarding Policy, Online Safety Policy, Staff Code of Conduct and Engagement and Behaviour Policy

Safeguarding Policies can be found: <https://www.whaleythornsschool.co.uk/>

## Whaley Thorns Statement

In accordance with the DfE and Government guidance schools are requested wherever possible to remain open, to support our most vulnerable students, our school community and the frontline key workers amongst us.

These measures require critical planning as they are fundamentally different to our normal way of working. However, a number of important safeguarding principles will remain the same when safeguarding our students throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our school aims are outlined in the following statements.

## Staffing arrangements

Our commitment to safeguarding our students, community and staff will remain our top priority through these unprecedented times. With this in mind each school day has a scaled down staffing rota involving teaching and support staff to minimise the amount of contact, taking into account the guidance on social distancing and closely monitored hand hygiene.

This will consist of, one teacher and one Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a half-day DSL. Two further DSLs will be held in reserve to cover any eventuality, this will be an identified on-call fully trained DSL. Other members of the SLT will work remotely from home if not on the rota.

## Staff will be required to

- School site will not be open until 8.00am and will close promptly once the last student has been collected – all staff will be required to be off site as soon as possible and no later than 4pm, when daily cleaning has been completed.
- Long/shoulder length hair will need to be tied back at all times.
- Finger nails will be required to be trimmed to a short length to reduce the potential for retaining the virus.

## What staff should do if they are worried about a child?

The expectation of all of our staff is to continue to monitor the safety and well-being of all of our students following the schools' reporting concerns process. DSLs are tasked with weekly, or more frequent, in touch calls to cover education, safety and wellbeing.

## Safeguarding Leads

- A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is required on site each day the school is open.

- Phone contact should be made available if the DSL is working remotely.
- The COVID 19-Tracker is in place to monitor and support a more robust risk assessment if deemed appropriate for some key students.
- At 9:30am each working day the onsite DSL is required to contact the Headteacher to report any attendance issues relating to vulnerable or key-worker children if needed.
- At 3pm each working day the onsite DSL is required to contact the Headteacher to report any safeguarding concerns and provide update about children in attendance if needed.

## Partnership Agencies

If our students have an allocated professional working with the family, then an additional Safe and Well call will be required with the identified key professional. See frequency below:

- **Child Protection** – weekly contact
- **Child in Need / Looked After** - fortnightly contact
- **Medical** – fortnightly contact if deemed appropriate

## Safeguarding our Virtual School – Working Remotely

As most of our children find themselves working remotely at home our aim is to contact each family on a fortnightly basis to carry out an education, safe & well check. Communication will be made by the class teacher through ClassDojo in the first instance. Where contact has not been made, follow up phonecalls will take place. These calls are required to follow a structured and pre-established routine to assess how the parent/carer and children/ren are progressing.

If a parent raises any concern, the member of staff has a duty to help the parent if it is within their expertise to do so; alternatively, they should refer to the duty DSL or reserve DSLs.

## Procedures and safety measures for online use

All staff should encourage parents to follow the basic expectations around 'Keeping Safe Online' to include, some of these services can be found within our Online Safety Policy and are shared below:

- Any computers being used should be in a visible area (i.e. not a bedroom)
- Ensure any child's device has all the appropriate safety functions installed, updated and checked regularly.
- Be aware that through this lock down period, children will be accessing their devices more frequently, so encourage all parents and staff to be watchful of their emotional health.

## Useful Sources of Further Information

Parents, carers and staff are all responsible for supporting the wellbeing of young people in our school. There are a number of recognised, quality guidance websites that staff should be aware of and able to signpost to. These include:

- Thinkuknow – [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- CEOPs – [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)
- NetAware - [www.net-aware.org.uk/](http://www.net-aware.org.uk/)
- Internet Matters - [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

- UK Safer Internet Centre – [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)
- Parentinfo – [www.parentinfo.org](http://www.parentinfo.org)

### **Mental Health:**

Negative experiences throughout these events can have an impact on the mental health of a family as a unit or individuals. Support can be accessed through a number of national organisations including:

- NSPCC – [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)
- MIND – [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)
- Samaritans – [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)
- Barnardos - [www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)
- Childline – [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

This document is subject to ongoing review in response to changing situations.

Date of Review: 01.04.2020