

COVID 19 – Safeguarding arrangements

Statement

At Abbey Meads School we continue to be committed to providing the best possible care for our pupils, we will continue to prioritise their wellbeing and safeguarding.

The way schools are currently operating in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, we will continue to ensure the best interests of children will continue to come first
- if anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy will be available
- we will ensure that unsuitable people are not allowed to work with our pupils
- our pupils will continue to be protected when they are online in school

Safeguarding Policy

Our current safeguarding policy will continue to be followed but we are aware that some of the practice will not reflect the current way of working.

To do so we will ensure that Government guidance and updates are shared with appropriate staff and practice is adapted to accommodate any required changes.

We will work closely with our social care colleagues and staff working in the Local Authority to prioritise vulnerable children; this will include the Virtual School Headteacher for Children that are Looked After and those children that were previously Looked After.

Peer on Peer abuse concerns will continue to be responded to in line with Keeping Children Safe in education, any concerns will be raised in the usual manner and referrals will continue to be made, support and advice will be available for any child in these circumstances.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The details for contacting the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy (DDSL) are always shared with all staff and parents and have been reinforced during this time of school closures.

In a situation where both the DSL and DDSL become unwell and unable to work, another member of the Senior Leadership team will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

Following this staff will contact Gary Evans CEO of Blue Kite Trust who will offer advice / access to T Parkinson and S Chase from Lighthouse.

In addition, advice and support with regards to Safeguarding children will be available from the Lead Safeguarding Adviser for Education at Swindon Borough Council.

Attendance

Schools do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance

Schools/colleges and social workers should be agreeing with families whether children in need should be attending education provision – and the school or college should then follow up on any child that they were expecting to attend, who does not, if a child has a social worker they will also be informed.

These interim safeguarding arrangements will be updated and reviewed regularly in line with current guidance and information.

Designated Safeguarding Lead Name: Bob Buckley

Date: 31/03/2020

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