

COVID-19 Annex to Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

This is an annex to the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (the **Policy**) which has regard to the Department for Education's [Guidance for full opening: schools, Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) and the statutory guidance [Keeping children safe in education 2021 \(KCSIE\)¹](#)

The School has updated the main body of the Policy to incorporate the changes made to the new version of KCSIE 2021 which will be in force from 1 September 2021. This annex includes the COVID-19 related safeguarding arrangements in place in the autumn term (and, where appropriate, changes to other School policies).

The DSL will keep the Policy and this annex under review. The School will ensure that all staff and volunteers are aware of this annex and future revisions, which will be published on the School's website.

Arrangements in place to support staff in identifying new concerns as children return to school

The School will ensure that the DSL and deputy DSL(s) has sufficient additional time, especially in the first few weeks of term, to provide support to staff and children regarding any new safeguarding and welfare concerns and the handling of referrals to children's social care and other agencies where these are appropriate.

The School will also ensure that additional support is available from the school nurse to support the wellbeing of pupils returning to school, or those continuing to access education remotely (e.g. if they are required to self-isolate). Regular first aid and medical issues will be dealt with by the health care assistant in the Learning Support area in order to ensure the school nurse is available to support return to school and ongoing covid safety.

Additional arrangements in place to support pupils as they return to school

Email sent to all parents at the end of August requesting that they contact Head of Year with any concerns or relevant pastoral information before school starts

¹ Schools are expected to be open on a full time basis to all pupils from the beginning of the autumn term and this annex has been updated to reflect the COVID-19 related arrangements in place.

Welcome letter and information about new protocols sent to parents before school starts

PSHCE lessons exploring return to school issues for all pupils

Wellbeing materials given to all form tutors to ensure appropriate support for pupils during form time

Mental Health and Wellbeing materials available on Virtual WGS

Return to School plans completed for individual vulnerable pupils by Heads of Year and overseen by Deputy Head (ie those pupils already identified as having greater support needs)

Arrangements in place to keep children not physically attending school safe

e.g. pupils who are learning remotely, online safety and how concerns about these children should be progressed.

See the DfE's [Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) for further information and advice.

Pupils who are learning remotely will be in regular contact with their Head of Year. An individual plan will be written and shared with the pupil, parents and staff to ensure personal and academic development is in line with expectation and the pupil is appropriately safeguarded.

Practice will have regard to our e-safety policy, acceptable use policy, risk assessment for pupil welfare policy and all relevant covid annexes.

Arrangements for following up on non-attendance

School attendance will be mandatory from the beginning of the autumn term and from that point the usual rules on school attendance will apply. The School should work closely with other professionals (if appropriate) to support the return to school.

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, school will immediately offer them access to remote education. The Head of Year will set this up and monitor ongoing access via an individual plan.

<p><i>A child's social worker (if they have one) will continue to be notified of any absence.</i></p> <p><i>Practice will have regard to our attendance policy and our missing pupil policy.</i></p>
<p>Any changes to the processes for managing a report of peer on peer/child on child abuse</p> <p><i>Reports will be referred to the DSL as usual</i></p> <p><i>Practice will have regard to our behaviour and discipline policy annex and risk assessment for pupil welfare (and annex)</i></p>
<p>Any updated COVID-19 safeguarding advice from local safeguarding partners or local authorities</p> <p><i>Manchester Local Authority sends out useful advice during term time which is shared with the relevant members of the school community.</i></p>
<p>Changes made to other policies</p> <p><i>Annexes that outline school adaptations to ensure safety and wellbeing during Covid-19 pandemic have been published for:</i></p> <p><i>Behaviour and Discipline</i></p> <p><i>Pupil Welfare Risk Assessment</i></p> <p><i>Safeguarding</i></p> <p><i>E-safety</i></p> <p><i>A whole school Risk Assessment has also been undertaken which is kept under regular review</i></p>

Version 3	Date September 2021
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