

# Park End Primary School



Approved by: *D. Jackson*  
Date: 27.4.20

## COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection (website)

Review Date	Type of Review	Comments	Initials
March 2020	New policy		LR

## 1. Context

2. 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 and all childcare providers were asked 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.

## **Contact Details**

**Park End Primary School:** 01642 314309

## **Vulnerable children**

3. 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 and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.
4. 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 or college 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.
5. Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability. Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer support to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.
6. Park End Primary School will continue to work with and support children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after children to help protect our vulnerable children.
7. The lead person for this will be L. Richardson. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

## **Attendance monitoring**

8. Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. Park End Primary School will follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

9. Where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Park End Primary will notify their social worker.
10. A trained DSL (or deputy) will be available at school. In the unlikely event that this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home (see contact details above). 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. This might include updating and managing access to CPOMS and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers.
11. The DSL or Deputy DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

#### Reporting a concern

12. Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy. If staff are off site, they can make contact with the DSL or Deputy via telephone if urgent or by making a report via CPOMS, which can be done remotely. In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This will ensure that the concern is received.
13. Staff are reminded that they should report any concern immediately and without delay. Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the headteacher. If the headteacher is not at school then she can be contacted by phone or the concern can be directed to the DSL. Concerns around the headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors. Contact details for the Chair of Governors can be obtained from the school office.
14. 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.
15. All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). In accordance with their safeguarding responsibilities, the local arrangements for reporting concerns about a child remain the same (For South Tees MACH see contact details above).

#### Online safety in school

16. Park End Primary will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where pupils are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

#### Children's online safety away from school

17. 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 Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

18. Park End Primary will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

#### Supporting children not in school

19. Park End Primary is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children. 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, a robust communication plan will be put in place for that child or young person.
20. Details of this plan will be recorded on CPOMS, as will a record of contact that has been made. The communication plans include phone contact and door-step visits with the child, family and relevant professionals. Park End will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan. This plan will be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.
21. The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.
22. Park End Primary recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances can affect the mental health of pupils. Teachers at Park End Primary need to be aware of this in setting.
23. Park End Primary will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we will ensure their safety and wellbeing. Park End Primary will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.
24. The head teacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety. Park End Primary 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.
25. If the head teacher is concerned about the impact of staff absence – such as the Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – then she will inform the Local Authority and make alternative arrangements.

#### Peer on Peer Abuse

26. Park End Primary School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within the Child Protection Policy. The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made in consultation with the DSL and DDSL.

**Useful contact numbers for parents (texted out on 31/3/2020)**

Coronavirus support

Practical help from the council – 01642 729777

Health concerns – 111 online or phone call

Emergency – 999

Non-emergency Police – 101

Children's services – 01642 130700

Children's services – evening/weekend – 01642 524 552

CAMHS Crisis number – 03000 132 000 (if they have a child open to camhs)

Adult mental health crisis number – 01642 680706

Samaritans – 116 123

Harbour Domestic abuse 24 hour helpline – 03000 20 25 25