

Grasvenor Avenue Infant School
COVID -19 Addendum written 30.3.20 updated 11.01.21
[Addition to Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy]

Written in response to DfE guidance '**Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers**' published 27.03.2020.
Guidance quotes are included in blue:

'any updated advice received from the local 3 safeguarding partners

- *any updated advice received from local authorities regarding children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need*

LBB have issued the following advice (italics):

Attendance

In this period of crisis there is no statutory obligation for children and young people to attend school, parents have the right to keep their children at home. However, for safeguarding reasons, schools will need to ensure that a list of pupils attending school is maintained.

Where absence has not been confirmed by the parent/carer this will be subject to a 'first day response'. Schools should inform the parent/carer and Social Worker if one is allocated. If you need to escalate a concern please use:

Education Welfare Team 020 8359 7739 - ewt@barnet.gov.uk

MASH Education Welfare – EWTMASH@Barnet.gov.uk

MASH – 020 8359 4066 MASH@Barnet.gov.uk

For children who are Looked After the Virtual School and the allocated Social Worker must also be informed.

Virtual School contacts

Locke, Julie Julie.Locke@Barnet.gov.uk

Skoutaridou, Maria Maria.Skoutaridou@Barnet.gov.uk

Grasvenor has established which pupils require Key Worker Care, in line with the DfE list of Key Workers. Grasvenor has identified vulnerable families and pupils through a RAG rating system considering every child. Our Vulnerable pupils requiring monitoring actions (detailed below) are:

- Pupils with safeguarding concerns or risks identified by staff and agreed by Safeguarding team
- Pupils with EHCPs
- Pupils with a social worker.

All pupils will be monitored through:

- Daily zoom registers
- Presence 'online'

- Follow up calls /homevisits if no contact made
- Establishing the whereabouts and safety of all pupils on the last day before school closure and continuing trying to reach any pupils absent without reason. In this case the usual reporting for a child missing in Education will be followed.

Teachers will monitor the **zoom register attendance** and online learning participation of each pupil and report **daily on the google docs register** which pupils are not engaging- referred to as 'absent online'.

Pupils identified as 'absent online' will then receive a welfare telephone call from FLO or SLT (whoever is onsite that day) and updated in the Google docs comment section and My concerns. Any concerns must be noted on My Concerns and followed appropriately with actions logged and agreed by DSL in the usual way. Reasons for being 'absent online' should be established in the initial call- this may be that technology is not working for the family and in this case paper work should be sent out and a following weekly welfare call agreed, **or more frequently as deemed appropriate for that family.**

Where staff are undertaking welfare checks, any concerns identified should be shared and referred in the same way. Staff should be reminded that their usual safeguarding duties apply while the school is closed and that any concerns must be shared in the usual way (for example, if they see something that concerns them out in the community). Staff should not assume a colleague or another professional will take action and share information that might be critical in keeping children safe.

Everyone should remain clear that safeguarding concerns should still be directed to the DSL.

Schools may wish to share these with parents where they feel a child is particularly vulnerable:

- [Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families](#)
- [Big White Wall](#)
- [The Children's Society/The Resource Vault](#) offers advice on a range of mental health issues for children and young people
- [Child Bereavement UK](#)
- [Epic Friends](#)
- [Healthwatch Essex](#)
- [Kooth](#) is a free, confidential, safe and anonymous way for young people aged 11-25 to ask for help from a team of highly qualified and experienced counsellors and support workers.
- [Mentally Healthy Schools](#)
- [MindEd](#)
- [My Mind](#)
- [Papyrus](#)
- [Samaritans](#)
- [Time to Change](#)
- [Young Minds / Crisis Messenger](#)

- what staff and volunteers should do if they have any concerns about a child

Any GAIS staff with concerns about a child should continue to report via My Concerns in the usual way. In addition we ask that you Whatsapp or email a member of the safeguarding team (S.J.- DSL, Lorraine and Jessie- deputies) to notify them you have posted on My Concerns, as My Concerns may not be checked as regularly during this time.

- the continued importance of all staff and volunteers acting and acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns

All staff, visitors and volunteers should report as soon as possible, as usual. In urgent cases requiring immediate response or support please telephone a member of the safeguarding team.

- DSL (and deputy) arrangements

Arrangements remain the same. There will always be DSL/ deputy onsite whilst school is open and 2 others working from home. In the event DSL is sick one of the deputies will be named as lead and so on. In the event all 3 members of the team are unable to work DSL from Underhill should be contacted.

- the continued importance for school and college staff to work with and support children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children
- peer on peer abuse - given the very different circumstances schools and colleges are operating in a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims (the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE should continue to inform any revised approach)
- what staff and volunteers should do if they have concerns about a staff member or volunteer who may pose a safeguarding risk to children (the principles in part 4 of KCSIE will continue to support how a school or college responds to any such concerns)
- any arrangements to support children the school or college are concerned about who do not meet the 'vulnerable' definition

- what arrangements are in place to keep children not physically attending the school or college safe, especially online and how concerns about these children should be progressed

It is important that all staff and volunteers are aware of the new policy and are kept up to date as it is revised. The revised policy should continue to be made available publicly.'

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

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online'

'All existing school and college staff will already have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of KCSIE. The important thing for these staff will be awareness of any new local arrangements so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.'