



## **Parmiter's School**

### **Annex 1**

## **Covid-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection**

**J. Stevens**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2020**

**Shared with staff on: 1st April 2020**

**Updated June 3rd 2020 ( *all changes in***

***bold)***

## Context

### ***This update is in response to the phased return of students to schools from 1st June 2020***

From 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the Government asked parents 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 childcare providers were asked to provide for a limited number of children-children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and who cannot be cared for at home.

This addendum of Parmiter's School Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

1. Context
2. Vulnerable children
3. Attendance monitoring
4. Designated Safeguarding team
5. Reporting a concern
6. Safeguarding training and Induction
7. Safer recruitment/ volunteers and movement of staff
8. Online safety
9. Supporting children who are not in school
10. Supporting children who are in school
11. Peer on peer abuse

## Key Contacts

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## **Vulnerable Children**

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 includes 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.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Parmiter's School will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. 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 and Parmiter's School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. In Hertfordshire the Foster carers have delegated authority to decide to keep their foster child at home.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Parmiter's School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Parmiter's will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend School or, if preferred, to engage with online learning from home on a daily basis. This will be monitored remotely if needed.

***From June 8th we will be inviting key students from Years 9 and 10 ( in the first instance) into school for three mornings a week. These students are classed as vulnerable for a number of reasons including home issues that have arisen due to the current circumstances.***

***From 15th June we will be engaging in some face to face support for students in Years 10 and 12. This will be to support their ongoing remote learning and to provide Form Tutors with an opportunity to check about their well-being***

## **Attendance monitoring**

As a school we do not need to complete our usual day to day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. There are new procedures in place which we are following.

Parmiter's School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school and we will then follow up on any student that we were expecting to attend, who does not. We will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

## **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Parmiter's School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a team of Deputy DSLs

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Jan Stevens

The team of Deputy DSLs includes: Brad Hughes, Wendy Rowland, Tim Henson, Fiona Craigie, Jo Zanetti

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case, a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or email - for example when working from home.

There will always be a member of the SLT on site.

The DSL / DDSL team will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

## **Reporting a concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy this can ***be done in person or by email*** to the DSL and Headmaster.

***When students return to school it is likely that they may disclose concerns that have arisen during the prolonged period away from school. These must be dealt with in exactly the same way as any other disclosure. Staff will be provided with a checklist of questions/prompts which they may wish to use but be reminded that we cannot promise confidentiality.***

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headmaster and DSL whilst away from school, this should be done by email.

Concerns around the Headmaster should be directed to the Chairman of Governors: Mr A Mehmet.

## **Safeguarding Training and induction**

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Parmiter's School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction via our online system.

If, for any reason, staff are deployed from another educational setting or other setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that: -

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

## **Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff**

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Parmiter's School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for our school.

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

Where we use volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under **no** circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity with our students.

Parmiter's School will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. We will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing:  
Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college and it is for this reason that staff are asked to sign in and out at Reception.

### **Online safety in schools and colleges**

Parmiter's School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

### **Children and online safety away from school and college**

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 Safeguarding Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to the DSL and DDSL team (but reminding staff that anyone can make a referral to children's social care and as required, the police.)

Our school ICT policies must be adhered to and we must ensure that the use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

***As we move to a position where we may be delivering more lessons through our Google platform, staff are reminded that prior to any lesson or recording being shared, they MUST refer to the guidelines issued by SLT and also refer to the Staff conduct, good practice and acceptable use when using Google Meets ( Live Lessons) Appendix of the ICT Acceptable Use policy.***

### **Supporting children not in school**

Parmiter's School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where we have identified a child to be 'on the edge' of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, we will try to ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Parmiter's School recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances can affect the mental health of our students and for

this reason we are encouraging all students to utilise the online platform 'Zumos'. This has been communicated to all staff, students and their carers.

### **Supporting children in school**

Parmiter's School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students and it will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headmaster will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to student ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Parmiter's School 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.

***The Risk Assessment for the return to school will be circulated to all staff and we will seek confirmation, via Google, to ensure that that it has been read by all staff***

Parmiter's School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, appropriate support is in place for them.

### **Peer on Peer Abuse**

Parmiter's School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where the school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, we will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within our Safeguarding policy. The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.