



**NEW VISION
TRUST**
GOING FURTHER TOGETHER

**CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR the NEW VISION TRUST
COVID-19 ADDENDUM**

DATE APPROVED BY Trustees NOVEMBER 2020

DATE LAST APPROVED JUNE 2020

DATE POLICY TO BE REVIEWED: NOVEMBER 2021

Trust Designated Safeguarding Lead: Fiona Cullen

Trust Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Jane Nash

Trust Designated Safeguarding Governor: Diana Green

Chair of Trustees: Quintin Peppiat

This policy should be seen in conjunction with the trust's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy updated September 2020 and used with the Covid- 19 Guidance for full opening: schools (DfE 2nd July 2020)

This policy addendum is available on the trust website.

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1. Scope and Definitions

This addendum to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy dated February 2020 applies during the period of the school full re-opening following the COVID-19 arrangements, and reflects updated advice from the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership and the London Borough of Newham.

It sets out changes to our normal child protection policy in light of the Department for Education's guidance *Covid- 19 Guidance for full opening: schools (DfE 2nd July 2020)* and *Coronavirus (Covid-19) - Safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers guidance. (DfE updated on 20th May 2020)*

Unless covered here, the normal child protection policy for each school in the New Vision Trust continues to apply.

The Department for Education's (DfE's) definition of 'vulnerable children' includes those children who:

- Have a social worker,
- With a child protection plan
- Are assessed as being a Child in Need (CiN)
- Looked after by the local authority
- Has an education, health and care (EHC) plan

2. Safeguarding principles

We welcome all our children back into the Trust schools and although due to Covid-19 we are operating in a different way, we will still have regard to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020, and will follow these important safeguarding principles:

- The best interests of children will always continue to come first;
- If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act on it immediately;
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy should be available at all times or a member of the Senior Leadership team will act in their place;
- It is essential that unsuitable people do not enter the school workforce or gain access to our children;
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online and accessing remote learning on-line.

3. Designated Safeguarding lead (DSL) and Deputy DSL arrangements

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy will be available virtually and will have as much time as necessary to support children and staff regarding any new concerns as children return to school.

In the event of a school DSL (or Deputy) not being directly available the trust DSL can be contacted remotely by calling Nelson Primary school or emailing directly: fiona.cullen@nelson.newham.sch.uk or jane.nash@elsmhurst.newham.sch.uk

The individual school's DSLs will be responsible for liaising with the Trust DSL (or deputy) to confirm:

- Identification of vulnerable children in school
- Update and manage access to child protection files, where necessary
- Liaise with children's social workers where they need access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments

The Trust's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy (DSL) will endeavour to keep up to date with safeguarding developments and training and advise all schools of any updates.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy in each school will identify and monitor the attendance and well-being of vulnerable children.

4. Reporting concerns

All staff and volunteers must continue to report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy in each school immediately if they have concerns about a child. It remains vitally important to do this, both for children that are attending school and those not attending due to self-isolation or anxiety.

All staff will continue to work with and support children's social workers, where they have one, to help protect vulnerable children.

5. Safeguarding children

Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time has potentially put all children at greater risk of physical and emotional harm.

Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on pupils' mental health and well-being that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on those concerns immediately in line with the procedures set out in the school Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

For children not able to attend school due to self-isolation, or anxiety, staff will be alert for signs that may include:

- Not completing assigned work or logging on to school systems
- No contact from children or families
- Seeming more withdrawn during any class check-ins or video calls

6. Mental Health and Well-Being

All schools will continue to offer support for the mental health and well-being for all children of the school. Appropriate staff will continue to work directly with emotionally vulnerable children and support vulnerable families.

Each school will also signpost all children, parents/carers and staff to other resources of support for good mental health and well-being at this time.

When setting expectations for children unable to attend school and accessing remote learning at home, staff will consider the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

7. Online safety

7.1 In school

The Trust's schools will continue to have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place in school that are regularly monitored. If IT staff are unavailable, the contingency plan is through our NPW service agreement.

7.2 Outside school

Where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow the existing staff code of conduct/IT acceptable use policy, alongside the remote learning policies of each school .

Staff in all schools are aware that children are vulnerable to being bullied or groomed for abuse or radicalisation on-line. They will continue to be alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm online, and act on any concerns immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out in section 3 of this addendum.

Each school will make sure children, whether learning in school or accessing remote learning on-line at home, know how to report any concerns they have back to their school, and signpost them to other sources of support.

8. Contact plans

Each school has contact plans for children with a social worker and children who there are safeguarding concerns about that are not able to attend school due to self-isolation or anxiety. Staff in each school will be encouraged to maintain contact with those children unable to attend school and speak directly to children in circumstances where:

- They would usually attend school but are self-isolating or are anxious about returning to school;
- Children attending off-site alternative provision

Each child has an individual plan which sets out:

How frequently the school will make contact

- The name of the staff member(s) will make contact – as far as possible, this will be staff who know the child and family well
- How staff will make contact – this will be over the phone, doorstep visits, or a combination of both
- Add in anything else you include in plans here

These plans have been agreed with children's social care where relevant, and will be reviewed through discussion with social workers.

If schools are unable to make contact, they will contact children's social care, make a doorstep visit or contact the police.

9. Working with other agencies

Each school will continue to work with children's social care, and with Virtual School Heads for Looked-After (LAC) and Previously Looked-After Children (PLAC).

This Addendum to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed regularly and where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- The Newham Local Safeguarding Children Partnership

- The Local Authority, in regards to children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need (CiN).

10. School Attendance

All children will be returning to school for the Autumn term and each school will be completing attendance registers and following usual procedures to follow up on non-school attendance. It is parents and carers duty to secure regular attendance for their child(ren) at school. All children are expected to attend school every day unless they are unwell or self-isolating. Each school will:

- Communicate with parents and children to encourage their return to school and will provide reassurance about the measures taken within school to minimise the risks;
- Follow up on any absence with parents or carers, by telephone on the first day of absence, before contacting the schools of siblings and, if necessary, carrying out a doorstep visit.
- Notify their social worker, where they have one;
- Liaise with the school nursing service as appropriate.

In the event of poor or non- school attendance we have the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with the Local Authority code of conduct.

11. Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

Each school will communicate with parents and carers through websites, by parentmail and email in order to:

- ensure they have all information that is up to date.
- ask if there are any changes regarding the welfare, health and well-being that the school should be aware of before a child returns to school
- ensure that parents are aware of the potential risks to children on-line and the importance of staying safe online
- ensure that parents know what our school is asking children to do online, including what sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school
- ensure that parents are aware that they should only use reputable online companies or tutors if they wish to supplement the remote teaching and resources our school provides
- ensure that parents know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online

12. Staff recruitment, training and induction

12.1 Each school remains committed to robust safer recruitment procedures, so that adults and volunteers who work in the schools are safe to work with children.

All leaders will continue to follow our safer recruitment procedures, as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020.

There is an expectation that staff will return to school in September 2020 and any new staff must present the original documents when they first attend work at our school.

Usual checks will be made on new volunteers and complete risk assessments to decide whether volunteers who aren't in regulated activity should have an enhanced DBS check, in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020.

The Single Central Record for each school will be kept up to date.

12.2 Safeguarding induction and training

Leaders in each school will make sure staff and volunteers are aware of changes to procedures and local arrangements. New staff and volunteers will continue to receive:

- Safeguarding induction / training
- A copy of our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (including Covid-19 addendum)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1 (2020)
- Confirmation of Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy arrangements

12.3 Concerns about a staff member or volunteer

Leaders will continue to follow the procedures as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020. Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have about a member of staff or volunteer immediately – whether those concerns are about staff/volunteers working on site, working remotely or providing access to remote learning.

Each school continue to refer adults who have harmed or pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Each school will continue to refer potential cases of teacher misconduct to the Teaching Regulation Agency. We will do this using the email address Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk for the duration of COVID-19 in line with government guidance.

13. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the 3 local safeguarding partners, the LA or DfE is updated, and as a minimum every 4 weeks by the trust DSL. At every review, it will be approved by the safeguarding trustee.

14. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Child protection policy
- School Behaviour Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct Policy
- IT acceptable use policy
- Remote Learning Policy
- Health and safety policy
- Health and safety Risk Assessment
- Online safety policy
- Whistleblowing Policy