

### Keeping children safe in schools and colleges (KCSIE)

KCSIE is statutory safeguarding guidance that the academy continues to adhere to during this period of social distancing. The way in which the academy currently operates 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 the academy has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy will be available during the hours of 9am and 4pm either on site or by telephone
- it is essential that unsuitable people (who may pose a risk) 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

In light of this the academy has reviewed the policy and the procedures outlined below reflect how safeguarding procedures will work during this period. The DSL (Crystal Cardnell - Vice Principal) will continue to keep this under review as circumstances evolve.

### Vulnerable children and children with education, health and care (EHC) plans

The school remains open for vulnerable children, children with EHC plans and the children of key workers as defined by the government. School is open from 8.30am to 2.15pm for these students. Ebbsfleet teachers and teaching assistant will be providing lessons and supported study for these students during this time. This will continue through the Easter break.

### DSL Arrangements. What to do if you are worried about a child.

A trained DSL will be on-site during schools opening hours of the school or available by phone/video call. Outside of this time anyone with a concern for a child can contact the DSL team on [DSL@theebbsfleetacademy.kent.sch.uk](mailto:DSL@theebbsfleetacademy.kent.sch.uk) or 07519 429748 between 9am and 4pm.

If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, a request for support should be made immediately to Children's Social Work Services (03000 41 11 11) and/or the police (999). Kent Children's Social Services can be contacted by telephone: 03000 41 11 11 (text relay 18001 03000 41 11 11) or email: [social.services@kent.gov.uk](mailto:social.services@kent.gov.uk). Out of hours and in an emergency if you need to contact Kent Social Services outside of normal office hours, for example during the night, call 03000 41 91 91. If you think someone is in immediate danger, the best thing to do is call 999 for the emergency services.

It is acknowledged that DSL training is very unlikely to take place during this period (although the option of online training can be explored). 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.

The academy will continue to refer cases for support using KCC procedure as outlined in the policy. The academy will continue to attend meetings arranged by social services and Virtual Schools Head via phone call/video conferencing whilst social distancing policy is in place.

### **Peer on Peer abuse**

Staff who have concerns around incidents or potential incidents peer on peer abuse or child on child sexual violence during the period of the shutdown should report to the DLS email and phone number. These contact details are also available on the school website and can be accessed by parents and carers and students.

### **Concerns about a staff member**

If staff have concerns about a staff member or volunteer who may pose a safeguarding risk to children during the period of the shutdown should contact the Principal, Gurjit Kaur Shergill on 07973 641766. If the concern is in regard to the Principal, please contact Cheryl Kuit, the Trust Clerk, using [kuitc@brooklearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:kuitc@brooklearningtrust.org.uk).

### **Vulnerable Students**

The Leadership Team and Safeguarding Team compiled a list of students who we are concerned about but who do not meet the 'vulnerable' definition. The Safeguarding Team will be staying in touch with these families. Staff who are concerned about a students should report to the Safeguarding Team via the DSL email and telephone number.

### **Attendance**

The academy will record and report the attendance of students who have attended school during the shutdown. The academy will follow up with parents and carers where students who we are expecting to attend do not.

### **Staff training and safeguarding induction**

Any new staff who are recruited during this period of shutdown will be provided with a safeguarding induction. They will be required to read the child protection policy and part 1 of KCSIE.

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

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable or may pose a risk to young people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. The academy will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of KCSIE. The school will not be using volunteers to staff the school during the period of the partial closure.

### **Mental health**

The academy recognises that negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their families. The academy is providing guidance on supporting mental health during this difficult time through a dedicated section on the academy's website. If staff have concerns around a student's mental health this should be reported via the DSL email and phone number.

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

The academy understands that students are more vulnerable to online risks when working from home. The academy has created a section of their website which has advice for students and parents on online safety.

[www.theebbsfleetacademy.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=The+Academy+is+now+closed&pid=1051](http://www.theebbsfleetacademy.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=The+Academy+is+now+closed&pid=1051)

All staff must abide by the 'acceptable use policy' in regards to IT use. Staff should only use the VLE and staff email to contact students. There should be no contact between staff and students on social media or by personal email.

