



## MICKLEOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Name of Policy:** Covid19 Annex to Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

**Date of Policy:** April 2020

**Member of Staff responsible:** Mrs Lynne Gerver

**Review date:** As necessary during the pandemic

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair of Governors**

**Date Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

### At Mickleover Primary School

**We are:**

**Motivated to learn**

**Proud of our achievements**

**Successful and skilled for life**



## Annex to CP and Safeguarding Policy

COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at MPS

### CONTEXT

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. This addendum of the Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

- Context
- Vulnerable children
- Attendance monitoring
- Reporting a concern
- Safeguarding Training and induction
- Online safety in schools
- Children and online safety away from school
- Supporting children not in school
- Supporting children in school
- Peer on Peer Abuse

### KEY CONTACTS

Role : Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead

Name: Mrs Lynne Gerver

Contact: 01332 514052

Email : [admin@mickleover.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@mickleover.derby.sch.uk)  
[safeguarding@mickleover.derby.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@mickleover.derby.sch.uk)

Role: Assistant Headteacher and Acting Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Name: Mrs Kate Halliday

Contact: 01332 514052

[admin@mickleover.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@mickleover.derby.sch.uk)

Role: Safeguarding and Inclusion Manager

Name: Mrs Helen Coyle

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Chair of Governors: Mrs Julia Roberts

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Safeguarding Governor: Mrs Rachel Brailsford  
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## **SAFEGUARDING PRIORITY**

During these challenging times the safeguarding of all children at our school – whether they are currently at home or in attendance – continues to be our priority. The following fundamental safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children continue to come first
- if anyone in our school has a safeguarding concern, they will act immediately
- a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy DSL will always be available
- no unsuitable people will be allowed to gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online.

## **CURRENT SCHOOL POSITION**

We are currently open for children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response and children who are vulnerable (approximately 20-30 pupils). We are only open to children who attend Mickleover Primary School.

School is open from 8am – 4pm, Monday-Friday (including school holidays)

School will not be open on any Bank Holidays.

There is always a designated/deputy safeguarding lead or the safeguarding manager on site and where this is not possible due to illness, a DSL can always be contacted by phone or email.

## **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 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.

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 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.**

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 Safeguarding Manager) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

MPS 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. The lead person for this will be: Mrs Helen Coyle



Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Mrs Helen Coyle and the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

### **ATTENDANCE MONITORING**

Where a child is expected but does not arrive at school, we will follow our attendance procedure and attempt to contact the family. If contact cannot be made, the DSL or a deputy DSL will be informed.

The DSL or a deputy will attempt to contact the parents through various methods, such as telephone, email or by contacting a relative in the first instance. If contact cannot be made or if the DSL or a deputy DSL deems it necessary, we will undertake a home visit or ask an appropriate agency to do so. A risk assessment will be carried out before any such visit is made to ensure staff and the family are not put at risk.

Where a vulnerable child does not take up their place, we will notify their social worker.

### **REPORTING A CONCERN**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school's Child protection and Safeguarding Policy. 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, they report the concern to the Headteacher, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Mrs Julia Roberts [jroberts@governors.mickleover.derby.sch.uk](mailto:jroberts@governors.mickleover.derby.sch.uk)

### **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.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL should 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 MPS, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce 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 MPS child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

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.

If MPS needs to utilise 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.

MPS 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. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

MPS 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.

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, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, MPS will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

### **ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOL**

MPS 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**

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.

MPS will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. Most learning for MPS pupils is placed on our learning platform. Children have access to their own year group area. This area is password protected and not available to anyone outside of the school setting. My maths, which is also used, is not via the Learning Platform, but it does have a school password and child portal to log in; it is password protected.

### **SUPPORTING CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL**

MPS is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils. Staff will continue to make contact, whilst school is closed, with all their pupils, either via the learning platform and emails or via a phone call. This will be done at least fortnightly.



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, school will ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child. Any interactions will be recorded for the pupil's file, as would normally happen in school.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods may be considered and recorded.

This plan will be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

MPS recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. School has circulated websites, resources and support materials relating to mental health and COVID 19 to all parents via the school's Mental Health Newsletter.

### **SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN SCHOOL**

MPS is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils and will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

MPS 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.

### **PEER ON PEER ABUSE**

MPS recognises that during the closure, a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where we receive 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 of the Child Protection Policy.

School will listen and work with the child, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions must be recorded as usual and appropriate referrals made.