

Child Protection Policy Addendum in Response to Covid-19

April 2020 – Version 1

Based on DfE guidance ‘Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other provider’ March 2020:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>



**THE EDUCATION
PEOPLE**

Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation

Child Protection Policy Addendum in response to Covid-19

Policy Author: Tara Deevoy

Date written/Updated: (12 April 2020)

Date shared with staff: (16 April 2020)

This addendum will be reviewed following any updates to national and local guidance and procedures and reshared as required.

1. Context

- On 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, as part of the response to coronavirus (COVID-19). Schools and 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.
- The way Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation is currently operating in response to coronavirus is fundamentally different, however, our safeguarding principles in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) 2019, remain the same:
 - the best interests of children will always come first
 - if anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
 - a DSL or deputy DSL is available
 - 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
- This addendum of Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation Child Protection policy contains details of any amendments to our existing safeguarding arrangements.

2. Key School Contacts

These have not changed and all existing emails and phone numbers should be used.

3. Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

- Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead is:
Michelle Crowe (LHS) Simon Krafft (NCEP)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads across both sites are: Claire Wright, Zoe Musk
- Additional Designated Safeguarding Lead across both sites is: Tara Deevoy
- Ideally a DSL (or deputy) will be present on-site however if this is not possible, a named DSL will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example working from home.
 - Should this not be possible then Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will share a DSL or deputy from the other federation school using the existing contact details. Staff should contact Tara Deevoy on her mobile should the reciprocal DSL not be available.

- A trained DSL from the list above will always be on site at one of the schools in the federation and will oversee updating of safeguarding files or liaising with agencies as required.
- All staff and volunteers on-site will have access to a trained DSL (or deputy) and know on any given day who that person is, and how they can speak to them. The staff rota names the DSL on duty each day.
 - The posters with DSL details that are on display in each school are up to date and should still be referred to by staff and children.
- The DSL/Deputy DSLs will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

4. Vulnerable children

- Ensuring that vulnerable children remain protected is a top priority for the Federation.
 - 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. Please see DfE guidance for further information on [vulnerable children](#).
- There is an expectation that children who live in the family home who have an allocated social worker will attend a provision, unless in consultation with the child's social worker and family it is agreed this is not in the best interests of the child. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, professionals will talk through these worries with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.
- Children in long-term foster care with an allocated social worker will be eligible to attend school. However, as the home has been assessed as a safe environment with professional foster carers, the schools will not guarantee a place for children in this situation.
- Children with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents and a decision will be made about whether they should continue to attend school.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation has the flexibility to offer a place to other learners who may also be considered vulnerable. Please contact Tara Deevoy via the relevant school office@ email address to discuss this further.
- If vulnerable children are not attending school, we will regularly keep in contact by telephone with them.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will continue to work with those professionals involved with children and share relevant information with them such as social workers, early help workers and virtual school heads (VSH). This is especially important during the COVID-19 period.
 - This will include information about attendance and any welfare concerns.
 - If there is a safeguarding concern, this will be shared with the relevant professional as soon as possible.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to engage with school remotely if needed and will offer work packs and resources for families who have no internet access.

5. Attendance monitoring

- Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation and social workers will agree with families/carers whether children in need should attend and Lower Halstow and Newington

CEP Schools Federation will follow up with family/carers where a child/children are supposed to be attending but do not.

- In all circumstances where a vulnerable child/children does not take up their place, or discontinues, Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will notify their social worker and follow up with the family/carer.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will also follow up with families/carers that have arranged a place for their child/children, namely keyworkers or children that are considered vulnerable but not open to any agencies and do not attend.
 - Staff will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will complete both the KCC and government [daily online attendance](#) form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school.

6. Reporting concerns

- All staff will continue to look out for any signs that indicate a child may be at risk, both on and off site, including online.
 - If a member of staff has any safeguarding concerns about a child, this will be reported to the DSL as soon as possible.
 - If the concern is urgent, the member of staff will speak to a DSL in person or via phone/video call if they are not on site, immediately.
 - In the event a member of staff cannot make contact with a DSL, this will not delay them taking immediate action to safeguard a child.
 - Concerns will be recorded using the existing safeguarding processes as outlined in our Child Protection Policy and logged on CPOMS at Newington CEP School.
- Learners are encouraged to report concerns via existing systems, or to a trusted adult at home.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to report concerns via existing systems.
- Where staff are concerned about an adult working with learners, they should report the concern to the headteacher.
 - If there are concerns about any member of staff or volunteer, the LADO service will be consulted with.
 - Concerns around the headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors.

7. Safeguarding training and induction

- DSL training is 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.
 - Formal DSL refresher training will be undertaken as soon as possible. DSLs will continue to keep their knowledge up to date through other means.
- All existing staff have read KCSIE 2019 Part 1 and accessed safeguarding training.
 - Staff will be made aware if any processes have changed with the sharing of this addendum and the DSL will communicate any changes to local processes directly.
- All new staff and volunteers will have an induction provided via the DSL and will be provided with a copy of the Federation Child Protection Policy and Covid-19 Addendum.
- Staff will continue to move between Lower Halstow and Newington schools

8. Safer recruitment

- It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children.
- During Covid-19 if Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation recruit new staff we will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment practices.
- If volunteers are recruited Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will continue to follow the guidance in accordance with KCSIE 2019 and volunteers who have not had the relevant checks will not be left unsupervised with a child.
- If staff from other settings volunteer or begin working at Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation we will ensure they have a relevant DBS check following DfE guidance at this time. Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will risk assess staff from other settings, as we would for a volunteer.
- If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our schools, 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
- 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.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will continue to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child in accordance with KCSIE 2019.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) where appropriate. During the period Covid-19 all referrals will be made by emailing misconduct.teacher@education.gov.uk.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will continue to update the single central record and will log details of any risk assessment carried out on volunteers and staff on loan from elsewhere.

9. Supporting children in school

- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its learners.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. A senior member of staff will ensure that there are appropriate staff on site and that staff to learner ratios have been considered to maximise the safety of children.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will follow the current government guidance in relation to social distancing and all matters relating to public health from the relevant government websites.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will ensure that all children who are either categorised as vulnerable or children of critical workers and are in attendance are appropriately supported.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will continue to record any support provided to children in relation to safeguarding issues on their respective safeguarding recording system.

Peer on Peer Abuse

- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation continues to recognise and respond to cases of Peer on Peer abuse by considering each incident on a case by case basis and basing any intervention on usual processes outlined within KCSIE 19.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation recognises that the current circumstances and the changeable nature of current Government guidance may mean that the schools may need to adapt elements of the process in some cases to ensure that they are able to respond in line with Government advice when required.
- The DSL will continue to consult as appropriate with multi-agency professionals to ensure that children's safety and wellbeing is not compromised if incidents of peer on peer abuse are brought to their attention.

Online safety

- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation expectations, with regards online behaviour and education when using federation provided devices or internet access on site, will continue to be implemented in line with existing policies. Any concerns regarding onsite online behaviour or use will be responded to in line with existing policies.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will continue to provide a safe online learning environment where learners use school provided devices on site; appropriate filtering and monitoring will continue to be implemented.
 - Learners internet use will be supervised by staff according to their age and ability and learners will be directed to use appropriate online resources and tools.
- Use of staff and learner personal devices, including mobile phones, will be managed in line with our existing mobile technology policy. Pupils will not be permitted to use personal devices in school.

10. Supporting children not in school

- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will continue to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people that remain on roll.
- All DSLs will continue to identify those vulnerable children that would benefit from Early Help as identified in KCSIE 2019, provide pastoral support and consider whether they would benefit from external support also.
- There will be clear plans around how best to communicate with learners who are identified as vulnerable, as well as those about whom DSLs have concerns about who do not receive a statutory service.
 - This could include telephone contact and/or doorstep visits but is at the discretion of the DSL.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation and the DSLs will work closely with all relevant agencies and professionals regarding safeguarding a child who is not on site.
 - Any plans will be reviewed regularly and if concerns become significant, the relevant DSL will consider any requests for support if considered appropriate.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation recognises that this is a difficult time for children and young people who consider school as a safe place and the current situation may impact on learners', staff and parent/carers mental health.

- The schools will utilise their website and social media presence to ensure that safeguarding messages are shared with children and their families. This will include links to appropriate services and resources that are aimed at supporting them throughout this period.

Online safety away from Schools

- All staff will continue to look out for any signs that indicate a child may be at risk online and will report and respond to concerns in line with the Child Protection Policy addendum.
 - Where necessary, referrals will be made to LADO, children’s social care and as required, the police.
- Learners are encouraged to report concerns to a member of staff or a trusted adult at home. Where this is not possible, additional support can be accessed online via:
 - Childline: www.childline.org.uk
 - UK Safer Internet Centre’s ‘Report Harmful Content’: <https://reportharmfulcontent.com>
 - National Crime Agency Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (NCA-CEOP): www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre
- Parents/carers are encouraged to ensure children are appropriately supervised online and that appropriate parent controls are implemented.
- All communication with learners and parents/carers will take place using approved communication channels; for example, Purple mash, Class Dojo or Google Classroom and via the relevant office@ email address.
 - Any pre-existing relationships or situations which mean this cannot be complied with will be discussed with the DSL.
- Lower Halstow and Newington CEP Schools Federation will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.
- Staff and learners will engage with remote teaching and learning in line with existing behaviour principles as set out in our behaviour policy & code of conduct.
- When delivering remote learning, staff will:
 - Only use online tools that have been evaluated and agreed by leadership.
 - Ensure remote learning activities are planned in accordance with our curriculum policies, taking learner needs and technology access into account.
 - Pre-record content and avoid any use of webcams for live learning, unless agreed in advance with SLT.
- If remote learning is taking place ‘live’ using chat facilities, such as the class blog pages, staff and learners will ensure a professional environment is maintained. This means:
 - All messages and conversations will be recorded within the relevant system for access later if required (systems are set to do this automatically).
 - All participants will wear suitable dress, use professional language, and ensure backgrounds of any pre-recorded videos are neutral and appropriate.
 - Staff should ensure personal information and/or, inappropriate or unsuitable personal items are not visible.
 - Where possible, other household members should not be in the background or shot; if this unavoidable, they should follow appropriate language and behaviour expectations.

11. Additional support and links

- As well as through existing mechanisms, learners, staff and parents/carers can access age appropriate and practical support and advice via a range of national and local services:

- o Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- o Kent Resilience Hub: <https://kentresiliencehub.org.uk>
- o NSPCC: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/how-to-have-difficult-conversations-with-children/>

DfE Guidance

- Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers: www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers
- Vulnerable Children Guidance: www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people
- COVID-19: guidance for educational settings: www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers: www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): attendance recording for educational settings: www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings

Specific Links relating to Coronavirus for Learners and Parents/Carers

- Kent County Council: www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/coronavirus
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/
- Mind: www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/
- Young Minds: <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>
- Kent Children's University: Home Resources Learning Packs: www.theeducationpeople.org/blog/kent-childrens-university-home-learning-resources-pack-is-live/
- Children's Commissioner:
 - o Children's guide to coronavirus: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/
 - o Resources for parents during coronavirus: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/coronavirus/resources/
- Sport England: www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout
- Place2be:
 - o www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-supporting-children-who-may-be-especially-vulnerable/
 - o www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-information-for-children/

Online Safety

- NCA-CEOP: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/
- Internet Matters: www.internetmatters.org/
- Childnet: www.childnet.com/blog/keeping-children-happy-and-safe-online-during-covid-19

- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/working-remotely-advice-professionals-parents-posh-rhc
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/
- Parent Info: <https://parentinfo.org/>
- BBC Own it: www.bbc.com/ownit

Domestic Abuse

- Domestic Abuse Services: www.domesticabuseservices.org
- Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111 www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/supportline
- (Swale) Clarion Domestic Abuse confidential Helpline: 07376 637069 (Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm)
- National Women's Aid Domestic Abuse 24hr helpline:0800 2000247