

Safeguarding Covid-19 Addendum to Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies for

The County High School, Leftwich

The County High School, Leftwich, continues to fully recognise its role and responsibilities in protecting children and keeping them safe. The school complies with the guidance given in *Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, updated September 2019)*, however, this document outlines the necessary changes to Safeguarding practices at The County High School, Leftwich in response to the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent school closures.

Where possible, guidance provided in the current Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies should be followed. However, where this is not possible or practicable, the guidance outlined in this document, which takes advice from '*Coronavirus (Covid-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers*' (27th March 2020), should be followed.

Safeguarding Practices

In relation to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first.

If anyone in school (either on site or working from home) has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act promptly to pass on their concerns to a member of the safeguarding team as follows:

If you are a member of staff working from home and have a concern for the safety or wellbeing of a student, please log your concern using CPOMS in the usual way. Access the website using this link: <https://countyhigh.cpoms.net/auth/identity?origin=%2Fdash>

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (Sarah du Plessis) and Deputy Safeguarding Lead (Deb Balmer) continue to work on site on rotation, or if this is not possible on any given day, the DSL is on standby contactable by phone. In addition, if the DSL or Deputy DSL are not able to be on site, a senior leader on-site will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

We will continue to maintain a safe environment on site by ensuring that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the building and all staff must continue to sign in at the Main Entrance.

Students will be regularly reminded of their responsibility to use the internet safely and this includes when communicating with their peers. Any concerns raised by students should be reported using the usual process, which is to pass on the concern to a member of the Safeguarding Team as promptly as possible, using CPOMS if working from home.

If any staff member has a concern about another member of staff, they should raise this promptly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Sarah du Plessis) or the Principal (Matthew Snelson).

In order to continue to fulfil our safeguarding obligation, we will attempt to maintain the flexibility to offer a place, wherever possible, to students who are deemed to be vulnerable. This will be reviewed regularly.

Attendance procedures using the daily online attendance form will be maintained and any concerns regarding non-attendance will be followed up.

If it becomes necessary for students of The County High School, Leftwich to attend a different education setting, school will take all reasonable measure to share relevant welfare and child protection information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy, or if not available, a senior leader for that setting.

Safeguarding of Vulnerable Students

Risk Assessments for students who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) will be completed by the SENDCo (Gemma Ashford), in order to determine how students can safely have their needs met either at home or on site. This will be reviewed regularly, in consultation with parents/carers and, where necessary, the SEN Team (Cheshire West and Chester). Other identified students (SEN Support) will continue to benefit from Learning Support assistance remotely.

Cared for Children will continue to be supported remotely by Education Support Workers. This work is overseen by the Designated Teacher (Margery Yates), who is also a member of the Safeguarding Team. Ongoing liaison with Virtual School Heads and Social Workers will be managed by the Designated Teacher.

Arrangements to support students deemed to be 'vulnerable', who may not meet the government definition (those with an EHCP and those with a Social Worker) are as follows:

The Pastoral Support Team will maintain regular contact and support for students and families who fall into the following categories:

- *Students who normally receive the support of an Education Support Worker, including students on TAFs and Young Carers (C. Wardle; E. Sayle; N. Williams)*
- *Students who normally receive ELSA (Year Leaders)*
- *Students who normally receive support from the Learning Support Department (G. Ashford; S. Turner; L. Wells; S. Williamson; J. Szewcow)*
- *Students who have had recent Safeguarding concerns raised (Year Leaders)*

If any members of the Pastoral Support Team have concerns regarding the safety and/or wellbeing of students they are supporting, they must raise these concerns following the usual process, which is to pass on the concern to a member of the Safeguarding Team as promptly as possible, using CPOMS if working from home.

Weekly Reports from each Team Leader in the Support Team provide a summary of engagement and support, raising any concerns or necessary actions in specific areas of focus as follows:

- **SENDCo** (*Gemma Ashford*) will keep oversight of SEND updates from team (including and especially EHCPs)
- **Year Leaders** will keep oversight of ELSA and other recent safeguarding concerns
- **Pastoral Manager** (*Sarah Bowen*) will keep oversight of the students with TAF and Young Carers (via ESW contact)
- **Designated Teacher for Cared for Children** (*Margery Yates*) will keep oversight of the Cared for Children (via ESW contact).

Supporting Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing

During the school closure, steps have been taken to continue to promote positive mental health and wellbeing, particularly regarding the changes to normal everyday life that students and families are experiencing. Ongoing support from the Pastoral Support Team (as outlined above), regular virtual assemblies and tutor time sessions cover relevant themes offering support and guidance in managing the difficulties encountered.

Students and families have access to mental health and wellbeing resources via the school website www.leftwichhigh.com with a dedicated Coronavirus Guidance and Support Webpage which provides access to shared resources and signposts to relevant organisations offering support.

Online Safety Guidance

The County High School, Leftwich will do whatever it reasonably can to keep students safe during this time. It is important that all staff who interact with students continue to be vigilant regarding any student whose safety and wellbeing may be at risk.

Guidance on remote teaching and learning is as follows:

It is not recommended that teachers or students use live webcams, however, should you wish to record/send learning resources the following guidelines must be met:

- *Send resources/messages to students in groups only (not 1:1) unless giving specific feedback on work via Google Classrooms*
- *Staff and students must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household*
- *Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms and where possible against neutral backgrounds*
- *Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background*

Regular Online Safety reminders will be provided to students and parents/carers in order to maintain online protection during the school closure. These will be available on the dedicated webpage on www.leftwichhigh.com

In the unlikely event that there is no DSL/DDSL available, the Safeguarding Children in Education (SCiE) team can be contacted for advice and support on the following details:

Vicki Thomason Email: Victoria.thomason@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Pam Beech Email: Pam.beech@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Susie Sheasby Email: Susie.sheasby@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Kerry Gray Email: Kerry.gray@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
If you have immediate concerns about a child or situation, please call I-ART on 0300 123 7047

As this document serves as an interim safeguarding addendum, it will continue to be reviewed and updated.

S du Plessis

Vice Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead

01.04.20

