

Annex to Child Protection Policy

COVID-19 changes to our Child Protection Policy

27 March 2020

Response to COVID-19

There have been significant changes within our setting in response to the outbreak. Many young people are now at home and staffing is likely to be significantly affected through illness and self-isolation.

Despite the changes, the school's Child Protection Policy is fundamentally the same: **children and young people always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the DSL in line with our established safeguarding procedure.**

This annex sets out some of the adjustments we are making in line with the changed arrangements in the school and following advice from government and local agencies.

The current school position and local advice

Moulton Primary school remains open during school hours Monday – Friday for essential child care for key worker families and vulnerable families, where the child cannot be supported in the home environment safely.

See additional information at the end from NCC.

Reporting arrangements

The school arrangements continue in line with our child protection policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Lucy Wallis

lwallis@moultonprimaryschool.co.uk

07523 290288

If unavailable, contact the school office 01604 643061, the school has a number of deputy DSL's and someone will be available at all times during school opening hours.

The school's approach ensures the DSL or a deputy is always on site while the school is open.

Staff will continue to follow the Child Protection procedure and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any child, whether in school or not. COVID-19

means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Children's services may be affected by the impact of the virus on staff and an increased demand for services. Where a child is at risk of significant harm there may be a need to be persistent in referring concerns to the local authority. The arrangements for contacting children's services are:

MASH: 0300 1261000

MASH out of hours: 01604 626938

or you can use the link at: <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/help-and-protection-for-children/Pages/report-a-concern.aspx>

Identifying vulnerability

We have undertaken a scoping exercise to identify the most vulnerable children/ families in our school.

We have spaces available in school if required for any children deemed as vulnerable, including:

- Looked After Children - these families will receive a regular 'safe and well' telephone check in from school.
- Previously Looked After Children – contact will be made with these families as necessary.
- Children subject to a child protection plan – these families will receive a regular 'safe and well' telephone check in from school, contact with the allocated social worker will also continue.
- Children who have, or have previously had, a social worker – spaces available in school if required and the children cannot be safely supervised at home. Telephone 'safe and well' check in calls will be made as necessary.
- Children with an EHCP – we do not have any children in our setting with an EHCP in place.
- Children on the edge of social care involvement or pending allocation of a social worker – spaces available in school if required and the children cannot be safely supervised at home. Telephone 'safe and well' check in calls will be made as necessary.
- Other children the school considers vulnerable. More children may be added to this group in response to concerns raised with the DSL. These children can be offered care at school if required.

School have completed a risk assessment for all children that meet the criteria above, which can be shared upon request with outside agencies.

In addition, the following groups have specific arrangements around contact and support from the school.

- Children of key workers have applied for their child/ren to attend school where they cannot be safely supervised by at least 1 adult at home.
- Children at home – all families will be sent updates from school via Parentmail and can access regular updates via the School Twitter account.

Holiday arrangements

Moulton Primary School have made arrangements for school to remain open throughout the holidays until further notice.

Attendance

The school is following the attendance guidance issued by government.

We request all key worker families to notify us if their child will not be attending a booked session at school.

School will follow up on any continued absences if contact has not been made by parents/carers in line with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The school will also follow the attendance procedure if contact proves impossible with children at home. (See Children Missing in Education section Attendance Policy -Appendix 1) <https://www.moultonprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Attendance-Policy.pdf>)

Staff will be aware of increased risk

The pressures on children and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, poverty, and financial or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in the setting of any work for children to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning – see below). Staff will be aware of the mental health of both children and their parents and carers, informing the DSL about any concerns.

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a school closure or partial closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse, including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision.

Risk online

Young people will be using the internet more during this period. The school may also use online approaches to deliver training or support. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of cyberbullying and other risks online and apply the same child-centred safeguarding practices as when children were learning at the school.

- The school continues to ensure appropriate filters and monitors are in place
- Staff have been reminded of the school's code of conduct and importance of using school systems to communicate with children and their families and will continue to use MyConcern to record and report contact with families out of school hours.
- Parents and children accessing remote learning receive guidance on keeping safe online via our school website.
- Free additional support for staff in responding to online safety issues can be accessed from the [Professionals Online Safety Helpline at the UK Safer Internet Centre](#).

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements young people could be at greater risk of abuse from staff. We remind all staff to maintain the view that 'it could happen here' and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to the safeguarding team.

Our staff rota is solely staff members who are already employed by the school and have already completed satisfactory DBS checks.

We have confirmed the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged: 01604 364031 LADOREferral@northamptonshire.gov.uk

If necessary, the school will continue to follow the duty to refer to DBS any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, and to the Teacher Regulation Agency in line with paragraph 166 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 using the address Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk.

New staff or volunteers

School will not be using staff who are not currently employed by the school during the COVID-19 school closure period.

New children at the school

Where children join our school from other settings we will require confirmation from the transferring DSL to confirm whether they have a Safeguarding File or SEND statement/EHCP. A full safeguarding handover discussion with the previous school and social worker will be necessary before the child begins school.

In some unusual circumstance this may not be possible.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment in respect of any new information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know about the information. This will be recorded on our safeguarding recording system.

This policy has been remotely approved by Governors and is available on the school website.

Liz Dixon 9.4.2020

School can also refer to– [letter from Sharon Muldoon - Deputy Director of Children First Northamptonshire - Northamptonshire's Children's Services MASH/DAAT response to Covid-19 Pandemic - \(PDF\)](#)