



Appendix

Safeguarding Policy

COVID-19 changes to our Safeguarding Policy

1st April 2020

Response to COVID-19

There have been significant changes within our setting in response to the outbreak. Most of our young people are now at home and teaching and learning is taking place remotely 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 Testwood School 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

Testwood School is currently closed to students, who are mostly now working at home and timetables have been postponed or adjusted. All vulnerable students and those with EHC plans are being closely monitored following advice and any updated advice received from safeguarding partners, including advice received from local authorities regarding children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, and the local authority designated officer.

The pressures on children, young people and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures for a variety of reasons including through having to stay within the household, through financial hardship or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in terms of setting any work for students to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning and ability to access on line resources). Staff may be aware of the mental health of both students and their parents or carers, and should refer to safeguarding about any emerging concerns.

Identifying vulnerability

We have undertaken a scoping exercise to identify the most vulnerable children. We have looked at all children with EHC plans (EHCP), Looked after Children, (CLA), care leavers (PLAC), those living independently or with significant mental health issues (SEMH), those on Child Protection (CP), or Child in Need plans (CIN), and those with an attached Social Worker (FSW) or who have been referred to the Early Help Hub (EHH). We have also included those with specific learning difficulties (SEND)

All students will be contacted at least weekly via telephone or email and monitored regarding safety, situation at home, and access to and engagement with teaching and learning. This will be recorded on a Google Spreadsheet and county informed. Any safeguarding issues will be recorded on CPOMS.

Reporting arrangements

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

To report a Safeguarding issue in an emergency during Covid-19 closure:

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Mr D. Murphy: d.murphy@testwood.hants.sch.uk

The Deputy DSL's are:

Mrs J. Pitman: j.pitman@testwood.hants.sch.uk

Mr T. Webber: t.webber@testwood.hants.sch.uk

Mrs S. Challis: s.challis@testwood.hants.sch.uk

Miss J. Marlio: j.marlio@testwood.hants.sch.uk

The school's approach ensures the DSL or a deputy is always available. A member of SLT and a member of the safeguarding team will be on site at all times.

Please record any concerns on CPOMS or call Mr Murphy on #####

If there is an allegation about staff, it should go directly to Mrs Pitman's attention or if it is about Mrs Pitman then it should go direct to LADO.

We will be operating during normal business hours, 8.30am –3.00pm (Mon – Fri)

Staff will continue to follow the Safeguarding procedures 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. Please continue to log confidential comments as you normally would on CPOMS.

Normal safeguarding procedures apply for referrals to children's services. This contact will go through a member of the safeguarding team (listed above) who will follow appropriate measures in seeking the appropriate and necessary support.

N.B Staff safeguarding responsibilities remain when working remotely. Please report any concerns via CPOMS in the usual way.

If you have concerns out of hours the following advice should be followed:

Out of hours' emergency safeguarding contacts

Life threatening situation:

- Ring for an ambulance and/or contact the police on 999 or 101 non-emergency
- If you think a child, young person or vulnerable adult is being abused or mistreated or you have concerns about a child young person or vulnerable adult's well-being you should call and speak to someone at one of the following numbers:

Agency	Contact	Details
Hampshire MASH	Telephone line for members of the public: 0300 555 1384	Out of hours (public and professionals): 0300 555 1373 Professionals line: 0300 5551381
Southampton MASH	Telephone number for members of the public: 023 8083 3336	Out of hours: 023 8023 3344 Professionals Line: 023 8083 200

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements young people could be at greater risk of abuse from staff or volunteers. 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.

Any staff or volunteers from outside our setting will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of the risks and know how to take action if they are concerned.

We have confirmed the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged:

Mark Blackwell mark.blackwell@hants.gov.uk Land line 01962 876364 (team) 01962 847005 (direct)

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 CPOMS.

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a school closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the [signs of peer-on-peer abuse](#), including those between young people who are not currently attending. Extra care should be

taken when making contact with these families our staff will ask about relationships between learners.

Risk online

Young people will be using the internet more during this period. The school will 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](#)
- Our governing body will [review arrangements](#) to ensure they remain appropriate
- The school has taken on board guidance on safe remote learning and guidance for safer working practices. We have reviewed the code of conduct and information sharing policy accordingly.
- Staff have discussed the risk that professional boundaries could slip during this exceptional period and been reminded of the school's code of conduct and importance of using school systems to communicate with children and their families.
- Parents and carers have received information about keeping children safe online with peers, and the school.
- 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](#).

Attendance

The school is following the [attendance guidance issued by government](#). The risk of COVID-19 **does not override** the duty on the school to ensure children and young people are safe.

Mental Health

Restrictions to movement and contact with other people means pupils are more likely to be at risk of mental health problems. Individual schools should make pupils and their families aware of where further support can be found. The Department for Education have produced guidance to support parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

The following organisations can also provide support:

www.kooth.com – Free online emotional wellbeing and counselling with self-help articles

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helping-someone-else/>

Calm Harm App – A phone app providing help for those who use self-harm as a coping strategy; <https://calmharm.co.uk/>

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers will receive information about keeping students safe online with peers, the school, other education offers they may access and the wider internet community. We have set out the school's approach, including the sites students will be asked to access and set out who from the school (if anyone) their student is going to be interacting with online.

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.

This policy has been remotely approved by the Chair and Vice Chair of Trustees.

Governors on 03.04.2020 and is available on the school website at <https://www.testwood.hants.sch.uk>