

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy COVID-19 Annex

Highfield Priory School and Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This commitment remains the same in the difficult circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 outbreak. During this period the principles and practices of the school's *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy* continue to apply.

In order to ensure the safety and welfare of children whilst working in extraordinary circumstances, the school will adhere to the DfE coronavirus guidance:

<http://safeguarding.info/covid19safeguarding>

In practice, the following procedures will apply:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

There will always be a nominated DSL or Deputy DSL available, either on site or contactable by phone or online video. Where a DSL or Deputy is not on site a senior leader will take responsibility for safeguarding on site if the school is open.

Parents with a safeguarding concern should email Mr J Duke (Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead) who will respond to any concerns within 24 hours during term time or forward the concern to the DSL.

Vulnerable Children

The school will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This will include liaising with relevant providers and ensuring that vulnerable children and those on the edge of receiving social care support can attend school where appropriate.

Pupils and staff on site

The school will continue to be a safe place for children to attend. We will ensure that appropriate staff are on site to maximise safety, and refer to Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and to advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Pupils on site will be registered and the school will follow up on any pupil expected to attend. Where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, the school will notify their social worker.

The school will also maintain a record of all staff/volunteers on site on any given day.

Remote Learning

The school will provide a safe environment for online learning. All pupils and staff must remind themselves of and adhere strictly to the Acceptable Use Agreements and Online Safety Policy, including any COVID-19 extensions to these policies.

Pastoral Support

We recognise that school can be a protective factor for children and young people, and that the current circumstances could affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Staff will be in regular contact with pupils and will continue to be vigilant for signs of safeguarding risk or emotional distress.

Safeguarding concerns should be reported to the DSL as outlined above. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Pastoral concerns will be addressed initially by the class teacher or tutor, who may involve the pastoral team or school counsellor depending on the nature of the issue.

All safeguarding and pastoral concerns will be logged in the usual manner.

Pupils or parents with a pastoral concern should contact their Class Teacher, via kidsblog, in the first instance.

Where a pupil is already known to the school as being in need, or is in receipt of pastoral-type support in school, the DSL will ensure that a communication and support plan is in place for that child. This may include email, phone or online video contact. The plan will be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

Where children move between schools, welfare and child protection information will be shared as required.

Working in partnership

We continue to work closely with our local safeguarding partners and other local agencies.