

## **Appendix to Safeguarding Appendix (– Response to COVID 19 situation.)**

This is for staff. It is a temporary appendix to the Twydall Primary School Safeguarding Appendix available on the Twydall Primary School website.

This will be updated as the situation evolves.

Twydall will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be: Holly Deasy

### **Guidance for staff**

- The best interests of children must always continue to come first
- If any member of staff has a safeguarding concern that a child might be in danger of immediate harm they should continue Act Immediately and make immediate contact in the following order.
  - Catherine Logan DSL
  - Jack Allen Deputy DSL (interim LAC Co-ordinator)
  - Holly Deasy Deputy DSL
  - Geraldine Fautley Deputy DSL
  - Kelly Page Deputy DSL
- If staff have concerns about a child, but do not think that they are in immediate harm they should report concern via CPOMS using this link <https://twydall.cpoms.net> and contact, Holly Deasy or Jack Allen, to alert them to the report on CPOMS
- A DSL or deputy DSL will always be available on site or remotely via mobile phone and normal procedures apply

### **Supporting children not in school**

Twydall is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people. Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive

pastoral-type support in school, we have ensured that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Twydall recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at Twydall Primary need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Home tutors are monitoring completed work and calling pupils who have failed to complete work set to check on their well being.

- Any teaching or communication with children or parents must only be through school approved channels such as Office 365 and Tapestry.
- There should be no use of webcams, Skype, FaceTime, WhatsApp, Facebook, although a teaching video or audio description for learning may be used.
- Formal communication with children should take place only during normal school hours.
- Staff should not arrange to meet with groups of children or individuals.
- Food deliveries and staff visits to families are completed in pairs.

### **Keeping children safe online 365 and Tapestry**

During the enforced lockdown, it will be necessary to communicate with children electronically, in Years 4, 5 and 6. Staff should ensure that professional boundaries are maintained and discussions are focused only on:

- The children's welfare
  - The content of the work
  - Helping them access the work
  - Giving specific feedback about the work
- Teachers in year groups 4, 5 and 6 are able to monitor the chat function through 365. Teachers should look for and act upon, through intervention and/or consultation with DSL, any indication of:

- Through observing conversation or through direct report any indication that a domestic violence incident has occurred in the home (contact DSL immediately)
- Any indication of emotional abuse
- Any indication of Physical abuse
- Any indication that the child is vulnerable to CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) at home or online
- Peer on peer abuse
- Children giving away personal information from which they would be identified
- Any indication that children are acting unsafely at home or online in another online platform
- If you see any acronyms that you are not sure about please check with a DSL

## **Live stories and Learning**

Whenever teachers are creating live learning videos, such as storytelling and assemblies:

- Be aware of your surroundings and what will be in the background of your video stream
- Wherever possible and if necessary block out the background (using functions available on the technology)

## **Supporting children in school**

- Where possible, there will be at least 1 DSL and 1 first aider on site each day.
- Twydall Primary School Site will remain secure while it is open to children and staff so that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- Twydall is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students and will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.
- The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate.
- Twydall Primary will continue to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.
- Twydall will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

## **Identified Vulnerable children**

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 and children that are just below the threshold for social care intervention but are on Twydall Primary's monitor list.

The school is supporting identified vulnerable children in the following ways.

- The DSL team are calling families of children on CP, CIN and EHAs, as well as children that are just below the threshold of these categories, on a regular basis
- The DSL team are visiting identified families on CP, CIN and EHAs, as well as children that are just below the threshold of these categories and are dropping off food parcels.

## **Identifying emerging mental health difficulties**

With the change in circumstances creating more stressful family environments, there is a concern that parents and children are more likely to experience negative mental health.

The Headteacher has arranged for staff to call identified parents.

Staff wellbeing is supported through signposting to Care First and mental health resources.

Pupil and parent/carer wellbeing supported through the Wellbeing page on website and communication through email and 365.

Within face to face exchanges or during e-communication exchanges staff should look for any of the following that may indicate deteriorating mental health and report to a DSL.

- Emotional state (fearful, withdrawn, low self-esteem)
- Behaviour (aggressive or oppositional; habitual body rocking)
- Interpersonal behaviours (indiscriminate contact or affection seeking, overfriendliness or excessive clinginess; demonstrating excessively 'good' behaviour to prevent disapproval; failing to seek or accept appropriate comfort or

affection from an appropriate person when significantly distressed; coercive controlling behaviour; or lack of ability to understand and recognise emotions).

### **Attendance Monitoring**

- Twydall Primary and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school
- Twydall Primary School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not.
- Twydall Primary will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.
- In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Twydall Primary School will notify their social worker.

### **Safeguarding and Clusters**

At Twydall we are working with other schools and have children on site from these schools.

The schools at which the pupils are registered will:

- Send a member of staff with the students, if appropriate
- Will ensure that Twydall Primary School staff have all of the emergency contact, allergy and medical information for that child before the child is left in the care of staff at Twydall Primary School

Reviewed by Catherine Logan and Jack Allen 31/03/2020