

Southmoor Academy



Addendum to Child Protection Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19

Due to the current unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 virus it is necessary that all schools are prepared and have appropriate arrangements in place in relation to the management of any safeguarding or child protection concerns both on and off site during this time. Therefore, we have produced this cover note/addendum to our existing Child Protection Policy to ensure all staff, Trustees/ Governors and parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time.

Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies

On Site: While our school site remains open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are: Lisa Mellefont and Nicola Murley. They continue to be our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies due to their level of training and skill. However, due to these unprecedented circumstances they may not physically be on our school site every day.

Should our school site be entirely closed, then we will update our website and Child Protection Policy with our arrangements.

Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children

Where our school remains open, the Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are fully aware of their vulnerable children and those they are expecting into school each day. Should any child not arrive then the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy will make contact with the parent or carer immediately and if there is no response they will contact front door services immediately.

Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will continue to contact vulnerable children and their families in the following timescales if the school is closed or these children are not on site: children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan (weekly), children who have a Child in Need Plan (weekly), Cared for Children (weekly dependent on the child's individual placement needs) or children with an Early Help Plan (weekly). If there are any issues raised during this time regarding their care, safety or ability to be contacted then the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will follow their local safeguarding procedures and contact their local front door services immediately (as per our Child Protection Policy).

Availability and contact arrangements for families and professionals who wish to make contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies

During these unprecedented circumstances the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be available to be contacted by children, families and other services and agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all our vulnerable children. They can be contacted via the school telephone number (0191 5949991) in the first instance and whether they are on or off site they will gain contact with any family or professional as soon as possible.

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day (8.30am-3.35pm) ONLY. Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving calls and messages outside of these times. In the event that children or families need support immediately please contact our front door services immediately (as per the information within the Child Protection Policy) or contact the Police.

Response to safeguarding or child protection concerns

As always, Southmoor Academy's duty of care is to keep children safe. While the arrangements of the physical care of children and physical presence of our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies may be different during this time, the school's response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school's Child Protection Policy.

Issued 5th January 2021

Identifying and supporting vulnerable pupils

Following advice from TfC we have risk assessed all pupils using a Red, Amber, Blue, Green system.

Category and priority	Suggested children	Describe who is responsible for making contact for pupils within this group, how often they are required to make contact etc.
Red – pupils most at risk with few protective factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils on child protection plans • Pupils on child in need plans • Pupils open to early help • Pupils open to Youth Offending Service 	Contact will be made twice weekly by the DSL or a Year Leader
Amber – pupils at moderate risk with some protective factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in care • Young carers • You may want to include some pupils on the ‘edge’ of children’s social care intervention 	Contact will be made twice weekly by either the DSL, a Year Leader or a member of the Pastoral Team
Blue – pupils who you have some concerns about	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils on the ‘edge’ of children’s social care intervention • Pupils with a recent Operation Encompass/Endeavour notification • Pupils who have recently closed to children’s social care/EH 	Contact will be made once weekly by either the DSL, a Year Leader, Pastoral Team member or Form Tutor.
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other pupils 	Contact will be made once weekly by the child’s Form Tutor

- A DSL has risk assessed each pupil who is Red, Amber or Blue and has made a record of the risk assessment on the Safeguarding Contact List.
- A DSL will review each risk assessment on a weekly basis and record any changes to the risk assessment.
- If a child has a Social Worker or an Early Help Worker, a DSL or Year Leader will contact each professional to share the school’s risk assessment and contribute to the ongoing plan to safeguard each child.
- If a child has a Social Worker or an Early Help Worker, a DSL or Year Leader has made all reasonable attempts to encourage the child to attend school, providing there’s no significant risk to the child’s health.
- Every contact with a child or family that is assessed as red, amber or blue will be recorded on CPOMS. All other contacts i.e. green, will be recorded on Behaviourwatch.