



ADDENDUM TO SAFEGUARDING POLICY: COVID 19

Updated June 2020

1.0 Introduction

Heston Community School 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, however 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 which is to be found at <http://safeguarding.info/covid19safeguarding>

2.0 Safeguarding

During the period of School closure, either the Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead will be available on site during School opening hours. Should this not be possible, both will be contactable by telephone or email and a member of SLT will be on site to take responsibility for safeguarding. Students or parents / carers with a safeguarding concern should contact the School, either by email or telephone.

The published Duty Rota contains the names of the staff and SLT members on duty every day.

3.0 Vulnerable Students

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker, those who are looked after by the Local Authority and those children and young people, up to the age of 25 with Education, Health and Care [EHC] plans. A child may also be defined as vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need, or otherwise meet the definition in Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

The School will continue to work with and support students' Social Workers and the Local Authority Virtual School 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.

The Safeguarding Team will continue to make CFAN, Children's Social Services and Early Help referrals.

4.0 Students and Staff on Site

The School will continue to be a safe place for students to attend. The School has completed a comprehensive Risk Assessment, in-line with DfE and PHE guidance, to ensure that appropriate staff are on site to maximise student safety and well-being.

Students on site will be registered daily. The School will follow up on students expected to attend. Where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at School, or ceases to attend, the School will notify their social worker.

A record of all staff on site on any given day will be kept.

5.0 Pastoral Support

We are aware that School is a protective factor for many children and young people and that the current circumstances could affect the mental health of students and their parents. A register of students who may be vulnerable or require particular support will be compiled so that regular contact with students and their families is maintained and recorded. Staff involved in making regular contact will continue to be vigilant for signs of safeguarding risk or emotional distress and make referrals using the School's established procedures. 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.

Current circumstances could affect the mental health of students and their families. Concerns about mental health and well-being must be reported, following the School's Safeguarding protocols to ensure the wellbeing of the young person.

Pastoral concerns will be addressed initially by the Class Tutor, and reported to the Learning Coordinator. Both the School Counsellor and the Learning Mentor will be available to meet with students, either by School telephone or face-to-face at School, depending on the nature of the issue.

All safeguarding and pastoral concerns will be logged. Students or parents/ carers with a pastoral concern should use the School email to contact the Tutor or Learning Coordinator for support or to be directed to other staff, as needed.

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

6.0 Online Safety

The School will continue to provide a safe environment for its students, including online. School computers and IT equipment being used off site have online filtering installed. Staff interacting with students should be alert to concerns around online safety and report these following Safeguarding procedures.

7.0 Working in Partnership

The School will continue to work closely with our local safeguarding partners and other local agencies.