Date of review: 31 March 2020
Next review: 1 May 2020 (or sooner, in response to additional guidance or changing circumstances)

Dobwalls Primary School - COVID-19 - Adaptations to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Provision to Reflect our Revised Ways of Working

Response to COVID-19

There have been significant changes within our setting in response to the outbreak and the resultant government action. Many young people are now at home. Staffing is likely to be significantly affected through illness, self-isolation, household isolation and shielding.

Despite the changes, the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy is fundamentally the same:

- **safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**;
- **children and young people always come first;**
- **staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with our established safeguarding procedure.**

This Annex sets out some of the adjustments we are making in line with the changed arrangements in our school and following the interim advice from government and guidance from local agencies.

The current school position and local advice

Dobwalls Primary School remains open to students considered to be vulnerable (see below) and to children who have one parent that is classed as a critical worker and who are otherwise unable to make childcare arrangements; critical workers are defined in the government guidance. If you require a place, please contact us via: secretary@dobwalls.cornwall.sch.uk

We are following the guidance issued by Cornwall Council's Service Director for Education, which provided initial advice on Cornwall Council's coordinated approach to meeting the needs of all students, including students with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), other identified vulnerable groups, Virtual School, key workers, school transport and free school meals (FSM).

We will take account of any further national or local advice and guidance and review and update this section of the policy accordingly.

Reporting arrangements

The school's arrangements continue in line with SMART's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and lead for allegations or concerns about members of staff is:

Tim Gray head@dobwalls.cornwall.sch.uk

The Deputy DSL is:

Kathryn Pipe kathryn@dobwalls.cornwall.sch.uk

The school's approach ensures the DSL or a deputy is always available while the school is open. They may not always be on site, but the DSL or a Deputy DSL will always be contactable and the duty member of the Senior Leadership Team will act in an on-site safeguarding role.

Staff will continue to follow the Child Protection and Safeguarding procedure and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any child, whether in school or not. This includes logging any concern so that a record and chronology is maintained.

The impact of COVID-19 means there is a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, so there cannot be any reduction in our standards.

Children's services may be affected by the impact of the pandemic on staff and an increased demand for their services. Where a child is at risk of significant harm there may be a need to be persistent in referring concerns to the local authority. The arrangements for contacting children's services are:

Cornwall Early Help Contact details:
- Telephone: 01872 322277
- Email: earlyhelphub@cornwall.gov.uk
- Website: www.cornwall.gov.uk/earlyhelphub

Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU)
- Telephone 0300 123 1116 - if concerns are outside office hours contact 01208 251300
- Secure Email: multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gcsx.gov.uk

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- Telephone 01872 326536. Referrals should go to the MARU not directly to the LADO team.

Prevent Lead for Cornwall – Steve Rowell
- Email: prevent@cornwall.gov.uk

Should a child, in the school's view, be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond, the school will immediately follow the safeguarding children partnership escalation procedure, available here: https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/cornwall_scilly/p_escalation.html

Identifying vulnerability

We have undertaken a scoping exercise to identify the most vulnerable children. From this, we have put in place specific arrangements in respect of the following groups:
- Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children – we currently do not have any in this category
- Children subject to a child protection plan – we currently do not have any in this category
- Children who have, or have previously had, a social worker (there is an expectation that children with a social worker **must** attend school, or another school by arrangement, unless in consultation with the child's social worker and family it is agreed this is not in the best interests of the child) and children on the edge of social care involvement or pending allocation of a social worker (where required these children will be offered a place at school, or another school by arrangement) - we have spoken to those with parental responsibility and to the allocated social worker or social services and agreed an arrangement appropriate to the child's circumstances, and, where this does not involve a placement in school, we will make regular contact home and with the social worker or social services, and record the outcome of each contact in our COVID-19 Vulnerable Student Contact Register.
- Children with an EHCP – we have contacted those with parental responsibility and agreed an arrangement appropriate to the child's circumstances, and, where this does not involve a

placement in school, we will make regular contact home and record the outcome of each contact in our COVID-19 Vulnerable Student Contact Register.
- Other children the school considers vulnerable - children in this group have been added in response to concerns raised by the safeguarding team; these children have been offered care at our school.

Any vulnerable student displaying any symptom of COVID-19 will not be able to attend school and will need to isolate in line with prevailing government guidance. Specific arrangements will be put in place in liaison with key agencies. Regular telephone checks will be made and we will record the outcome of each contact in our COVID-19 Vulnerable Student Contact Register.

In addition, the following groups have specific arrangements around contact and support from the school.
- Children of critical workers who may attend school – parents/carers of these students will be contacted to confirm that a place has been allocated. We will invite parents/carers to notify us of the dates that their child will be attending and the student will be added to our attendance register each day; normal absence reporting arrangements will continue to apply. Any student displaying any symptom of COVID-19 will not be able to attend and will need to isolate in line with prevailing government guidance. A simplified curriculum has been planned for these students and this will be delivered by staff in additional to the online home learning activities designed by our teachers.
- Children at home – the majority of students will remain at home, in line with the government's social distancing guidance. An online curriculum 'home learning' has been designed for these students and this has been assembled by qualified teaching staff. There will be no contact by teachers or support staff using their personal phone numbers, personal email addresses or social media; transparency will be maintained by using only the school systems.

The plans in respect of each child in these groups will state how often they are to be reviewed.

School holiday arrangements

Placements in school will continue during school holidays, bank holidays and days previously designated as Inset days as needed.

Attendance

The school is following the attendance guidance issued by government. Where a child is expected and does not arrive the school will follow our attendance procedure and make contact with the family. If contact is not possible by 9:30am the DSL will be informed. The DSL will attempt a range of methods to contact the parent, but if necessary a home visit will be arranged by the school or another appropriate agency. A risk assessment will be undertaken to consider manage the implications of COVID-19 alongside other risks perceived to the child. The risk of COVID-19 **does not override** the duty on the school to ensure children and young people are safe.

The school will also follow the attendance procedure if contact proves impossible with children at home, including a police welfare check.

Staff will be aware of increased risk

We recognise that the pressures on children and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, the potential for poverty has increased due to social distancing measures, and there will be increased financial and/or health anxiety. These areas have been considered in the setting of any work for children to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning – see below). Staff have been made aware of the potential for increased mental ill-health of both children and their parents and carers, informing the DSL about any concerns.

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a school closure or partial closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse, including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision. Extra care will be taken where groups have mixed age, developmental stages, are attending other schools as an interim measure and similar unfamiliar arrangements. When making contact with these families our staff will ask about relationships between learners.

We also address the issue of peer-on-peer abuse in our remote learning curriculum and in the guidance we issue to students and their parents/carers.

Risk online

Children will be using the internet more during this period. The school will also use online approaches to deliver training or support through the online home learning area. Staff have been made aware of the signs and indicators 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 Local Governing Committee will review arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate;
- The school has taken on board guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on safe remote learning and guidance for safer working practice from the Safer Recruitment Consortium;
- We have reviewed the code of conduct and information sharing policy;
- Staff have been made aware of 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;
- Staff will have read the 20 safeguarding considerations for livestreaming prior to delivering any livestreamed sessions;
- Children and young people accessing remote learning receive guidance on keeping safe online and know how to raise concerns with the school, Childline, the UK Safer Internet Centre and CEOP;
- Parents and carers have received information about keeping children 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 children will be asked to access and set out who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online. Parents have been offered the following links:

  o Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
  o London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
  o Net-aware - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
  o Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
  o Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
  o UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers
- 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.

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 deputy head teacher or head teacher.
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 (see contact details above).

If necessary, the school will continue to follow the duty to refer to DBS any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, and to the Teacher Regulation Agency in line with paragraph 166 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 using the address Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk.

New staff or volunteers

New starters will have an induction before starting or on their first morning with the DSL or deputy. They must read SMART's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, the behaviour policy, the whistleblowing policy, Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, Guidance for those working with children and young people in education settings and the code of conduct. The DSL or deputy will ensure new recruits know who to contact if worried about a child and ensure the new starters are familiar with the child protection procedure.

If staff or volunteers are transferring in from other registered education or childcare settings for a temporary period to support the care of children, we will seek evidence from their setting that:
- the member of staff has completed relevant safeguarding training in line with other similar staff or volunteers,
- they have read Part I and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education, and
- where the role involves regulated activity and the appropriate DBS check has been undertaken by that setting we will undertake a written risk assessment to determine whether a new DBS would need to be undertaken. It may be in these exceptional times we can rely on the DBS undertaken by their setting.

Our child protection procedures hold strong:
- Volunteers may not be left unsupervised with children until suitable checks have been undertaken. People supervising volunteers must be themselves in regulated activity, able to provide regular, day to day supervision and reasonable in all circumstances to protect the children;
- The school will undertake a written risk assessment on the specific role of each volunteer to decide whether to obtain an enhanced DBS check (with barred list information) for all staff and volunteers new to working in regulated activity in line with DBS guidance;
- As an interim measure, when undertaking ID checks on documents for the DBS it is reasonable to initially check these documents online through a live video link and to accept scanned images of documents for the purpose of applying for the check - the actual documents will then be checked against the scanned images when the employee or volunteer arrives for their first day;
- The school will update the Single Central Record of all staff and volunteers working in the school, including those from other settings - this will include the risk assessment around the DBS.
- A record will be kept by SLT of who is working in the school on each day that students are present during the interim COVID-19 arrangements.

New children at the school

Should children join our school from other settings we will require confirmation from the DSL whether they have a safeguarding file, SEN statement or EHCP. This file must be provided securely **before** the child begins at our school and a call made from our DSL or a deputy to the placing school's DSL to discuss how best to keep the child safe. In some unusual circumstance this may not be possible. Information provided must include contact details for any appointed social worker and where relevant for the Virtual School Head. Safeguarding information about children placed in our school will be recorded on our safeguarding system, will be securely copied to the placing school DSL and will be securely returned to the placing school on completion of the child's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the child.

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 our safeguarding recording system.

Approval

This Annex to the SMART policy has been remotely approved by the Local Governing Committee on April 14th 2020 and is available on the school website.