

COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Passmores Academy

The context of this addendum to the Safeguarding policy.

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

The Safeguarding team

At Passmores Academy, we have a large Safeguarding team of five. As part of the planning for this situation, a rota was put into place so that a different person would be on duty each day for the duration of the closure. All teaching and non-teaching staff were informed of this on the last day of term and staff were reminded that the 'my concern' system would be monitored in the same way as it is when the school is running normally.

Our usual way of working is that significant decisions and action plans are made in conjunction with another member of the safeguarding team. This system will remain in place and the person on duty will liaise with another team member prior to any significant actions are taken.

To ensure all staff have access to a member of the Safeguarding team at all times, SLT and reception have a copy of the duty rota and contact numbers if a discussion about a case is needed, as well as a 'my concern' being completed. The rota is as follows:

Week	Safeguarding duty for the day
2	LGD
2	RAD
2	NWS
2	LGD
2	ARN
1	LGD
1	RAD
1	NWS
1	LGD
1	ARN

If a concern cannot be managed remotely, the safeguarding duty person will come into the building but this should be avoided to avoid unnecessary travel.

If a member of the safeguarding team is unwell and unable to complete their duty day, JCY is the reserve for all days and will be on duty. If JCY is also unwell, then LGD will cover. If both LGD and JCY are unwell, this will be communicated within the team and another member will be asked to cover.

All DSL training is up to date for all 5 team members and will remain in date until November 2020.

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’.

We currently have:

64 students with an EHCP

12 LAC

3PLAC

1 student on a CP plan

6 students on a CIN plan

3 families working with Family Solutions.

38 students being supported in their role as a Young Carer

EHCP students

All the parents / carers of our EHCP students were contacted prior to the school closing to make them aware that the school would remain open for their students. To support these families, a weekly welfare contact will be made with these families for the duration of the closure if the child is not attending school.

These calls will be recorded on a spreadsheet which is held centrally. If any concerns arise from these calls, they will be recorded on ‘my concern’ and addressed by the Safeguarding team.

LAC / PLAC students

All the carers of our LAC students and parents of our PLAC were contacted prior to the school closing to make them aware that the school would remain open for their children. To support these families, a weekly welfare contact will be made with these families for the duration of the closure if the child is not attending school.

These calls will all be recorded on 'my concern'.

CP / CIN / FSS students

All the parents of our students currently working with Social Care / Family Solutions were contacted prior to the school closing to make them aware that the school would remain open for their children. To support these families, a weekly welfare contact will be made with these families for the duration of the closure if the child is not attending school.

These calls will all be recorded on 'my concern'.

Communication with social workers will continue by email with telephone conversations where necessary. Meetings can also continue, facilitated by technology to avoid unnecessary travel.

Reporting a concern

All concerns should be reported in the usual way, using 'my concern' as per the training all staff have received on my concern and in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019.

Online safety

The usual online safety systems will remain in place in the building. If there are any concerns with a student's online activity or online work, they should be reported in the usual way through 'my concern'.

With students working at home, it is important that all staff continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk through their online communication. If anyone has any concerns, they should be reported in the usual way through 'my concern'.

Students working in the building

The attendance of students working in the building will be recorded daily, along with the staff who are on duty. If a student is expected and does not arrive, contact should be made with their parent / carer to confirm their whereabouts.

We will continue to be a safe space for all children and ensure that staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate.

We will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how 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.

