

Poynton High School COVID-19 changes to the Safeguarding Policy

DSL: - Catherine Holyland Deputy Head teacher

Deputy DSL: - Andy Bennett, Assistant Head Teacher, Sue Warburton Teenage and Family Worker

Safeguarding Governor: Dean Picksley

31st March 2020

Response to COVID-19

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

Despite the changes, the school's Safeguarding Policy is fundamentally the same: **children and young people always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the DSL 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 the school and following [advice from government](#) and local agencies.

The current school position and local advice

Poynton High School is following updated advice received from Cheshire East regarding students with education, health and care plans (EHCP), students under social care and vulnerable students highlighted by the school.

Reporting arrangements

The school arrangements continue in line with our Safeguarding policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Catherine Holyland**, cjh@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

The Deputy DSLs are: **Sue Warburton**, swarburton@phs.cheshire.sch.uk **Andy Bennett**, abennett@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

The school's approach ensures there is always an SLT lead on site while the school is open. Staff are aware of the lead via the staff rota shared with staff each week. The DSL or Deputy DSL will be contactable. All staff have contact e-mail and telephone numbers to use should they have a safeguarding concern.

Staff will continue to follow the usual safeguarding procedure and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any child, whether in school or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Children's services may be affected by the impact of the virus on staff and an increased demand for 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:

Cheshire East: 0300 123 5012

Out of hours: 0300 1235022

Stockport: 0161 217 6028

Out of hours: 0161 7182118

Derbyshire: 0845 6058058

Out of hours: 01629 532600

Identifying vulnerability

We have undertaken used our in school tracking system to identify the most vulnerable children.

We have put in place specific arrangements in respect of the following groups:

- Looked After Children – Contact Daily
- Students subject to a child protection plan – Contact twice a week
- Students who have, or have previously had, a social worker Contact at least once a week
- Students with an EHCP – Contact at least once a week
- Students on the edge of social care involvement or pending allocation of a social worker - Contact at least once a week
- Other students the school considers vulnerable. More students may be added to this group in response to concerns raised with the DSL. Contact at least once a week

All records of contact will be recorded on the school system for safeguarding CPOMS.

Contact will confirm how the student is getting on with work, if the family has any concerns with Food/Gas/Electric and general welfare. In line with Cheshire East advice.

All staff making contact with students will have telephone supervision from the DSL or the Deputy DSL.

Each of these children has an individual plan which has been shared with other agencies involved in their care, including where appropriate their social worker and the Virtual School Head for Looked After and previously Looked After Children.

Holiday arrangements

Poynton High schools are continuing to provide places for children over the Easter break. The students will be supervised by staff from the school.

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.

A central register is kept with access for all SLT.

The attendance information is shared with the DFE on a daily basis.

Staff will be aware of increased risk

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, poverty and financial or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in the setting of any work for children to undertake at home. (see PHS home learning guidance) Staff will be aware of the mental health of both students and their parent/carer, 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 should be taken where groups have mixed age, developmental stages, are attending Poynton High School.

Risk online

We recognise our students will be using the internet more during this period. The school is aware of the increased need to highlight online safety and security to all stakeholders. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of and

other risks online and apply the same student-centred safeguarding practices as when students were learning at the school.

- The school continues to ensure appropriate monitoring and filtering is in place.
- Staff have discussed the risk that professional boundaries could slip during this exceptional period and been reminded of the school's staff code of conduct and importance of using school systems to communicate with children and their families.
- Children and young people accessing remote learning receive guidance on keeping safe online. Poynton High school continue to use doddle as the main platform for online learning.
- Parents and carers have received information via a letter and information on the website about keeping children safe online with peers, the school, other education offers they may access and the wider internet community.
 - [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
 - [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
 - [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements students 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 safeguarding team.

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. Cheshire East LADO: 01606 288931

LADO Business Support Officer: 01270 685904

Email: LADO@cheshireeast.gcsx.gov.uk

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 must have an induction before starting or on their first morning with the DSL or a deputy. They must read the school safeguarding, the behaviour policy, the whistleblowing policy and the staff code of conduct. The DSL or deputy will ensure new staff know who to contact if worried about a student and ensure the new starters are familiar with the child safeguarding 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.

New children at the school

Where a student join our school from other settings we will require confirmation from the DSL whether they have a Safeguarding File or SEN statement/EHCP. This file must be provided securely before the student 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 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 students 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 student's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the student.

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.

This policy has been remotely approved by Governors on 31/03/2020 and is available on the school website.