



WIDNES
ACADEMY

COVID-19

Safeguarding Arrangements

Addendum to Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy 2019 - 2020



Policy & Procedure Number:

Date of Board of Governors Review: March 2020

Next Review Due: May 2020

School Link: Karen Highcock

Revision Number: Version 1

Aspiring and Achieving





1 Purpose

- 1.1 KCSIE is statutory safeguarding guidance that schools and colleges should continue to adhere to as per their legislative duty. Despite the closure of schools as a result of COVID-19 and Government guidance, it remains essential that as far as possible, schools continue to be a safeguarding factor for children as well as supporting the families that they serve in the community. On Friday 27th March, interim guidance was published to accompany KCSIE. This addendum to the school's Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy sets out the safeguarding procedures in place during the school's closure.
- 1.2 The way that the school is currently operating in response to COVID-19 is fundamentally different to business as usual however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same at Widnes Academy:
- With regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first.
 - If anyone in school has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately.
 - A DSL or Deputy should be available.
 - It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children.
 - Children should continue to be protected when they are online.

2 Proactive Safeguarding

- 2.1 Prior to school closure, an identified list of vulnerable students has been identified. All students who are open to Children's Social Care (Child Protection, CIN, LAC and families supported by a CAF) are identified on the list. A further list of vulnerable students who do not fall into these categories have also been identified by the team.
- 2.2 Students identified as vulnerable are held centrally by the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for contacting the students or completing home visits. All information related to the contact made will be recorded on CPOMs Contact with CSC will be made either to provide updates or to raise a new concern.
- 2.3 Contact from school will be in the form of telephone conversations or home visits. Whilst home visits will be limited, the Safeguarding Team recognise the importance of this in situations where viewing the child is procedurally important in particular cases. Any home visits that do take place will take place in pairs. Guidelines around social distancing will be adhered to at all times.
- 2.4 As new information comes into school, the vulnerable student list remains fluid to ensure students who have not been identified are added to the list should there be an identified risk.
- 2.5 School will continue to offer a place to vulnerable students in school should this be required. School places are also available to students with EHCPs and children of Critical Workers.



- 2.6 The school will report the attendance of all students daily (in line with the DFE and the authority's procedures and guidelines).
- 2.7 If a parent / carer wishes to send their child into school, a phone call must be made to the school by 12 noon the previous working day so that adequate provision can be coordinated. If a place has been reserved and the child does not arrive then normal safeguarding procedures must be followed by the Senior Leader on site. Currently the school can offer places to students who are classed as 'vulnerable' or children of identified Critical Workers.
- 2.8 Where students are on site, the school will implement social distancing rules and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- 2.9 Widnes Academy will continue to be a safe space for any student who is entitled to attend during the school's closure. The Senior Leadership Team will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratios are appropriate.
- 2.10 A detailed overview of roles and responsibilities has been communicated to all staff about the procedures in place when required to work in school.
- 2.11 School will continue to liaise with Children's Social Care to ensure communication is fluid for all of our students. Meetings and conferences will continue to take place but via telephone-conference as per the guidance sent out on 18th March 2020: Halton Children and Families Covid-19 arrangements.
- 2.12 Parents / carers will be kept informed about how to access free school meals.

3 Reporting Procedures

- 3.1 All staff have been briefed about their responsibilities to report any safeguarding concerns to the Safeguarding Team should these arise.
- 3.2 All staff have access to our Safeguarding Policy which sets out their responsibilities as professionals.
- 3.3 If a member of staff identifies a safeguarding concern, the Safeguarding Team will continue to monitor the CPOMS and receive email regarding any reported concerns. These will be followed up in the usual manner
- 3.4 A member of the Safeguarding Team will be available each day in school as part of a rota system either in school or via email/telephone contact.



4 Responsibility of reporting

- 4.1 Staff are very aware of their responsibility to report a concern should they be unable to contact a member of the Safeguarding Team.
- 4.2 Procedures have been set out in the school's Safeguarding Policy should a member of staff need to act immediately.

5 DSL / DDSL Availability

- 5.1 There will be times through the week when it is not possible for the DSL or DDSL are not physical in school In situations where a member of the Safeguarding Team is not physically available, a member of the team will be available to advise and support remotely.
- 5.2 In the unlikely case that this is not possible, a Senior Leader will be on site or available and they will be responsible for ensuring all students and staff are safeguarded.

6 Staying safe online (Staff)

- 6.1 Safety advice has been given to staff about how to remain safe online and how to communicate appropriately with students. Staff should adhere to normal working practices / Staff Code of Conduct (which is part of the safeguarding policy and the e-safety policy) to ensure professional boundaries are maintained.
- 6.2 Staff should refer to the school's Allegations Against Adults Policy about what to do if they are concerned that a member of staff may have: behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child; possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.
- 6.3 Whilst staff are not required to complete 'live teaching', staff should adhere to the guidance given should they be posting videos or using social media to communicate with students.

7 Staying safe online (Students)

- 7.1 Regular guidance and advice will be sent to parents / carers and students about how to stay safe online. A list of useful numbers and contacts will continue to be distributed to parents / carers so that they can contact useful agencies for support. These can be accessed via the schools website with additional advice regularly updated via the schools Facebook page.
- 7.2 The Safeguarding Team will continue to advise parents / carers about how to monitor screen time as well as what to do if any concerns are raised about E-Safety, youth produced sexual imagery and peer-on-peer abuse.



- 7.3 The school will continue to act as a safeguarding factor for all of our students and be available to advise and support where they can. It is important that parents / carers are aware of the many predators / fraudsters and criminals who may use the current situation to gain access to children. Similarly, the current situation means that many online learning products and tutors are available. Schools need to ensure that advice is given to parents about making sure these are reputable and trusted.

8 Training

- 8.1 All staff will have access to the necessary training and support to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.
- 8.2 The Safeguarding Team will take a proactive approach to ensuring staff are kept up to date with key safeguarding training and contextual safeguarding.
- 8.3 If the safeguarding training of the DSL / DDSLs expires during the closure, the lead can still continue performing in the role even if the refresher training hasn't been completed.

9 Support for families

- 9.1 The school recognises that the current situation will leave many families vulnerable. At Widnes Academy we pride ourselves on the proactive approach we take to supporting all of our students and are committed to ensuring this is maintained.
- 9.2 All members of the Safeguarding Team and the wider school community will continue to support our families to ensure students are safeguarded to ensure the interest of children come first.
- 9.3 The school recognises that the current situation might be difficult and traumatic for some students and their families especially those with mental health conditions. The school will continue to offer support and signpost resources available.
- 9.4 When setting work, teachers will need to be mindful of the expectations put on some families who might struggle to complete the demands of the work set.

10 Local Authority Hubs

- 10.1 Currently Halton is not operating a local authority Hub. Should the situation change, Widnes Academy will ensure that all processes and procedures are in place to determine that all adults on site have been appropriately checked and cleared.



11 Visitors / Contractors on site

- 11.1 Any visitors / contractors in school will be subject to the school's normal safeguarding procedures and given either a red or green lanyard to indicate whether appropriate checks have been made. Where possible, contact in school should be kept to a minimum and only where it is absolutely essential. Social distancing must be adhered to at all times.
- 11.2 Staff who are in school (as per the school rota) should challenge visitors to school who are not wearing a lanyard or who are wearing a visitors lanyard and are unaccompanied.