



Camborne Science and International Academy

Annex to Child Protection and Safeguarding policy – version 8.0 (1 April 2020. Reviewed 16 April, 23 April 30 April 2020, 14 May 2020, 22 May, 10 June and 29 June 2020)

Child protection during the COVID-19 measures

Context

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual. Most children are no longer in a school setting and staff numbers have been affected by the outbreak.

Schools have been asked to provide care for children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This Annex to our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy sets out details of our safeguarding arrangements for:

1. Context
2. Version control and dissemination
3. Safeguarding priority
4. Current school position
5. Safeguarding partners' advice
6. Roles and responsibilities
7. Vulnerable children
8. Increased vulnerability or risk
9. Attendance
10. Reporting concerns about children and staff
11. Safeguarding training and induction
12. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff
13. Peer on peer abuse
14. Online safety
15. New children at the school
16. Supporting children not in school
17. Additional support contact details

Version control and dissemination

This is version 8.0 of this annex. It will be reviewed by our Senior DSL, Mark Fenlon and/or Andrew Oates, Deputy DSL on a weekly basis, as circumstances continue to evolve or following updated Department for Education advice or guidance. It is available on the school website and is also made available to staff in staff shared – policies.

Staff in attendance at school and those working at home will be able to contact Mark Fenlon or Andrew Oates. In the event of Mark Fenlon and Andrew Oates both being unwell and therefore unavailable, Ian Kenworthy, Principal can be contacted via the email address Head@cambornescience.co.uk Ian Kenworthy will liaise directly with Rebecca Peel and Jill Carter (Deputy DSLs).

Safeguarding priority

During these challenging times the safeguarding of all children at our school – whether they are currently at home or in attendance – continues to be our priority. The following fundamental safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children continue to come first
- if anyone in our school has a safeguarding concern, they will act immediately
- a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy DSL will always be available
- no unsuitable people will be allowed to gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online.

Current school position

The school is open for the children of key workers and vulnerable students. In addition to those students that have an EHCP and a social worker, the pastoral team have considered other students whom we consider to be vulnerable and have invited to attend school.

The number of students invited to attend this in-school provision, including children of key workers, is approximately 230 and will continue to increase in response to identified needs. At this time, approximately 50-60 students are attending and our staffing has been planned accordingly. We are regularly reviewing our on-site staffing and provision.

School is open for invited students from 8.15am to 2.45pm Monday to Friday, including school holidays. During term-time students on-site are completing work on-line according to their timetable.

All staff and volunteers from outside our school complete an induction to ensure they are aware of safeguarding risks and know how to respond if they have concerns.

From Monday 15 June 2020, we will have a programme of wider reopening to students in Years 10 and 12.

This exercise has been fully risk assessed with additional measures being put in place to ensure staff and student safety. Students will be in different bubbles, accessing the school through different entrances and using different classrooms. Breaks and lunches will be staggered to minimise crossover and students will access different toilets and handwashing. Social distancing measures are in place, as are enhanced cleaning measures.

We are prioritising those subjects and students where the content or the required level of supervision does not allow remote learning. Students will attend and complete whole days on the given subject, in a drop down style arrangement. For Year 10, the subjects will be in a block of several days, while in Year 12, the subjects have a set day of the week. Year 12 also have a week where tutor based work will take place.

We have written to students, parents and carers in order to arrange attendance.

Safeguarding partners' advice

We continue to work closely with our safeguarding partners, and we will ensure this annex is consistent with their advice. Current advice is below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/education-and-learning/coronavirus-advice-for-children-and-families/>

https://www.proceduresonline.com/resources/covid19/files/scp_amd.pdf

Roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for safeguarding in our school remain in line with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Where Mark Fenlon (Senior DSL) or Andrew Oates (Deputy DSL) are not on school site the duty Vice Principal from the school takes responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. Where needed, they will liaise with Mark Fenlon or Andrew Oates.

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) for child protection is Mark Fenlon

Contact details: email: fenlonm@cambornescience.co.uk tel: 07423433776

The deputy designated lead(s) are Andrew Oates

Contact details: email: oatesa@cambornescience.co.uk tel: 07423433769

Rebecca Peel peelr@cambornescience.co.uk

Jill Carter carter@cambornescience.co.uk

John Ross ross@cambornescience.co.uk

Sally Richards richardss@cambornescience.co.uk

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with EHC plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend school, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. Where a parent does not want their child to attend school, and their child is considered vulnerable, we will inform the social worker and explore the reasons for this directly with the parent/carer.

Those with an EHC plan will be invited to attend provision in school. We will liaise with the local authority for individual students where they do not attend, according to need. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

We will communicate weekly with the parents and carers of our vulnerable students to invite to attend our in-school provision.

Senior leaders in our school, especially the DSL (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are, and they have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

We will continue to work with children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

Increased vulnerability or risk

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Staff will be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Where we are providing for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Our staff will be aware of the mental health of children and their parents and carers and will contact the DSL or a deputy DSL if they have any concerns. Wellbeing activities and House challenges will be available for both students and staff to positively support their mental health.

Attendance

Where a child is expected but does not arrive at school, we will follow our attendance procedure and attempt to contact the family.

The duty Vice Principal will attempt to contact the parents/carers through various methods, such as telephone, email, text or by contacting a relative in the first instance. The duty Vice Principal will inform Mark Fenlon and Andrew Oates, if they are unable to make contact and establish reasons for the absence. If contact cannot be made or if the DSL or a Deputy DSL deems it necessary, we will consider a home visit or ask an appropriate agency to do so. A risk assessment will be carried out before any such home visit is made to ensure staff and the family are not put at risk.

Where a vulnerable child does not take up their place, we will notify their social worker, where allocated.

Reporting concerns about children or staff

The importance of all staff and volunteers acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns remains. Staff and volunteers will continue to follow our Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures and advise the DSLs of any concerns they have about any child, including those who are not attending school. All staff are to submit their concerns via a My Concern referral.

The varied arrangements in place as a result of the COVID-19 measures do not reduce the risks that children may face from staff or volunteers. As such, it remains extremely important that any allegations of abuse made against staff or volunteers attending our school are dealt with thoroughly and efficiently and in accordance with our procedures; in the first instance inform Ian Kenworthy, Principal via kenworthy@cambornescience.co.uk. In the event of his unavailability, please communicate with a Vice Principal via email, providing brief details. A telephone conversation will follow to establish the full facts of the concern.

Staff training and induction

All DSLs in the school have current and up to date Tier 3 training. The earliest date at which renewal is needed for a CSIA DSL is May 2021.

All current school staff have received safeguarding training and have read Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (Staff shared – School Policies). When new staff are recruited or volunteers join us, they will receive a safeguarding induction in accordance with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

If staff from another setting attend the school site then, in line with government guidance, we will not undertake any additional safeguarding checks if the setting providing those staff confirm that:

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check and, that in the opinion of that setting, nothing resulted from those checks that provided any caused for concern
- there are no safeguarding investigations into the conduct of that individual
- the individual remains suitable to work with children.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children.

When recruiting new staff, we will continue to follow our Safer Recruitment protocols as outlined in KCSIE 2019.

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

For volunteers we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to engage in regulated activity.

It is essential from a safeguarding perspective that we are aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers are on our school site and that the appropriate checks have been carried out on those individuals. We will continue to maintain our single central record (SCR) during these measures to ensure we have this awareness. All staff attending school during the school closure must sign in and out at front reception.

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise that children can abuse their peers and our staff are clear about the school's policy and procedures regarding peer on peer abuse. All peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. We also recognise that abuse can still occur during a school closure or partial closure and between those children who do attend the school site during these measures.

Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse and will follow the process set out in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Online safety

It is likely that children will be using the internet and engaging with social media far more during this time. Our staff are aware of the signs of cyberbullying and other online risks and our filtering and monitoring software remains in use during this time to safeguard and support children.

Our staff will follow the process for online safety set out in our On-line Safety Policy (Staff shared – School policies).

Staff who interact with children online will continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. If a staff member is concerned about a child, that staff member will follow the approach set out in this annex and report that concern to the DSL or to a deputy DSL through the submission of a My Concern referral.

We will continue to inform our parents and carers and our students of current risks and signpost available support.

New children at the school

Children may join our school from other settings. When they do, we will seek from those settings the relevant welfare and child protection information. This is relevant for all children that join us, but it will be especially important where children are vulnerable.

For vulnerable children we will ensure we understand the reasons for the vulnerability and any arrangements in place to support them. As a minimum we will seek access to that child's EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or, for looked-after children, their personal education plan and know who the child's social worker (and, for looked-after children, who the responsible VSH is).

Ideally this will happen before a child arrives but where that is not possible it will happen as soon as reasonably practicable.

Any exchanges of information will ideally happen at DSL (or deputy) level, and likewise between special educational needs co-ordinators for children with EHC plans. However, it is acknowledged this may not always be possible. Where this is the case CSIA senior leaders will take responsibility.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment based on the information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know the information.

Supporting children not in school

DSLs and the pastoral team are maintaining regular contact with vulnerable students and their parents or carers. Students have been traffic lighted according to risk factors and this determines the frequency of the communication. Telephone calls are made and this includes a wellbeing conversation with the student. For every communication made with the family a note of the communication is recorded in My Concern. Concerns are escalated in line with our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, where the need arises. When the CSIA lead worker has been unable to make telephone contact with a student or their parent/carer we will be persistent and continue to attempt contact through a range of strategies. Where contact is still unable to be made, we will escalate directly to the Education Welfare Service for their support.

Remote learning

Guidance on remote learning and use of technology https://www.gov.uk/guidance/remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=c91fe51c-9976-4b1d-9b0a-d3687750e7d7&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Remote learning guidance from The Key, NSPCC and UK Safer Internet Centre
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=265388db-edd9-4eda-91f4-c0da01b813f2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing extended to all essential workers who have symptoms (DfE 27 April 2020)

The Government has announced that all essential workers in England and Scotland, and members of their households who are showing symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can now be tested. This list of essential workers includes education and childcare staff: support and teaching staff, social workers and specialist education professionals in addition to social care staff.

Booking is done through a new online system. Employers can register and refer self-isolating staff, and employees are able to book a test directly for themselves or members of their household who are exhibiting symptoms.

Employees can choose to visit one of the drive-through testing sites across the country, or to receive a home testing kit.

To obtain a login to the employer referral portal, employers of essential workers should contact:
portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk

Full details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Additional support lines for school aged children- 5-19 years

Early Help Hub 01872 322277 for new referrals or complete an on-line request form.
earlyhelphub@cornwall.gov.uk

Client advice line for those already working with School Nurses and health visitors 01872 322779 cpn-trchildrenscmc@nhs.net

Out of hours GP services for information about any health concerns 111

Dental services - Emergency number 03334050290 / 03003112233

Day and night time wetting advice and support - free help line – 08081699949 www.eric.org.uk For any concerns about continence product delivery contact the CAL line or your School Nurse if you have those details.

Accessing domestic abuse and sexual violence support during COVID-19:

<https://www.facebook.com/safecornwall/videos/522628901759041/>

Domestic abuse and sexual violence: preparation increases safety:

<https://www.facebook.com/safecornwall/videos/525399904841288/>

Get Up & Go Bag: <https://www.facebook.com/714882621957263/posts/2665959603516212/>

Cornwall NHS have introduced a support/access line for Mental Health for both adults and children (11 May 2020):

0800 038 5300

Mental Health Connect Cornwall is a public facing, open access helpline, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Staff will be available 24/7 to provide advice, guidance, signposting and support over the phone to the public who may be worried about their own or somebody else's mental health.

DfE guidance published on keeping children safe from abuse and harm (26 June 2020)

We have jointly published new guidance with the Home Office, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and Public Health England on keeping children safe from abuse and harm. This guidance brings together sources of information about the main risks children may be vulnerable to during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and signposts you to help and support available.

The advice to parents and carers on keeping children safe from abuse and harm can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm>