



Child Protection Annexe, based on *Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers, 27th March, 2020.*

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

Key Safeguarding Contacts:

The Designated Governor for safeguarding and child protection is: *Carole Desfrancois*

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for child protection is: *Corinne Atsu-Valentine*

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: *Claire Oliver, Olivia Ayers and Tanya Watson*

The Designated Teacher for children looked after/previously looked after (CLA) is: *Tanya Watson*

The Designated Manager for Allegations against Staff and Volunteers is *Tanya Watson*

This policy was reviewed and adopted by the Governing Body on: 17th April 2020. It will be reviewed following any updates to national and local guidance and procedures.

This is a core policy that forms part of the induction for all staff and it is a requirement that all members of staff have access to this policy. This policy was shared with all staff on 20th April 2020

Contents

1. Context.....	2
2. Vulnerable children.....	3
3. Designated Safeguarding Leads.....	3
4. Reporting a concern.....	4
5. Attendance monitoring.....	4
6. Safeguarding training and induction.....	4
7. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff.....	5
8. Online safety in school.....	5
9. Online safety away from school.....	5
10. Supporting children not in school.....	6
11. Supporting children in school.....	7
12. Peer on peer abuse.....	7
13. Islington Council update.....	7
14. Support form Islington Council.....	9

This addendum of William Tyndale’s Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

1. Context

In response the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the UK government has asked parents to keep their children at home wherever possible. Schools and all childcare providers are, however, being 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 who cannot be safely cared for at home.

The key principles of our existing Safeguarding and Child Protection policy still apply as follows:

- With regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first.
- A DSL or deputy DSL will be available at all times when the school is open.
- If anyone in school has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act immediately and inform the DSL or deputy DSL.
- Unsuitable people will not be allowed to enter our workforce and/or gain access to children.
- Children will continue to be protected when they are online. Should we be sending reminders/info about how to stay safe online?

We will ensure that any new policies and processes in response to COVID-19 will not weaken our approach to safeguarding or undermine this policy.

2. Vulnerable children

Current guidance¹ defines vulnerable children as “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.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a child protection plan (CP) 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.

In line with the current guidance, we will risk assess (using Islington’s risk assessment tool) those children with an EHC plan in consultation with the local authority (LA) and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and especially our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and their deputies know who our most vulnerable children are.

Our school will continue to work with and support children’s social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children’s social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. Our Designated Teacher for this is Tanya Watson.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. We will continue to encourage our vulnerable children to attend school, including remotely if needed.

In circumstances where parents do not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and William Tyndale Primary School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parents. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID-19, William Tyndale Primary School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent or carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

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 and volunteers will be aware of the mental health of children and their parents and carers and will contact the DSL or a deputy if they have any concerns.

3. Designated Safeguarding Leads

William Tyndale Primary School aims to have the DSL (or at least one deputy DSL) available on site as far as is possible in current COVID-19 circumstances, in line with statutory guidance². Where this is not possible, the DSL (or deputy DSL) will be available via phone, or online video - for example when working

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

² Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2019.

from home. Where a trained DSL (or deputy DSL) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior member of staff will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site

This might include updating and managing access to our online management system and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy DSL) and children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school. All staff on site will be notified whether the DSL, deputy DSL, or other member of the SLT, is on site each day and the process for speaking to them. The DSL will continue to engage with social workers and co-ordinate remote attendance of case holding staff at all multi-agency meetings.

4. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school's Child Protection Policy; this includes making a report using our usual process and using our intranet system, which is remotely accessible from home.

All staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the Head Teacher as soon as possible. This should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Head Teacher within 24 hours. Concerns around the Head Teacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors and if the concern is in relation to the Chair of Governors or anyone on the governing body, the LADO should be informed directly at lado@islington.gov.uk

Advice may also be sought from the Principal Officer for Safeguarding in Education on 0207 527 5595.

5. Attendance monitoring

Current guidance states that local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. However, we will continue to be aware of all children's visibility through our virtual and online teaching and learning processes. In relation to vulnerable children, we will liaise with social workers and family support workers to agree with parents or carers whether children subject to child protection plans or child-in-need (CIN) plans should be attending school and will follow up on any pupil who is expected to attend and does not using our usual first day absence processes. We will also follow up with parents or carers who have arranged care for their child/ren but the children do not then attend.

William Tyndale Primary School will, when communicating with parents and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or stops attending without prior agreement and notification, William Tyndale Primary School will notify their social worker.

6. Safeguarding training and induction.

During the period that COVID-19 measures are in place, our DSL (and deputies), who are all trained, will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy DSL) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers join William Tyndale Primary School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as their current employer confirms in writing that the member of staff/volunteer:

- has been subject to Safer Recruitment checks including an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check;
- has received appropriate safeguarding training;
- is not currently subject to an ongoing disciplinary investigation; and
- is not considered unsuitable to work with children.

Upon arrival at William Tyndale Primary School they will be given a copy of our child protection policy, including this addendum and our local processes as well as including confirmation of DSL arrangements for that day and subsequent days.

7. 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, William Tyndale Primary School will continue to follow safer recruitment processes, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE).

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. If we are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE, 2019. Under **no circumstances** will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

We will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. (Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE). We will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE, 2019 and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice' for making a referral by emailing

Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current national emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. We will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE, 2019.

8. Online safety in schools and colleges

William Tyndale Primary School will continue to provide a safe environment for all our pupils, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

9. Children and online safety away from school and college

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk of harm or neglect. Any such concerns should be dealt with in line with our Child Protection Policy and, where appropriate, referrals should still be made to children's social care and, if required, the police.

The department is providing separate guidance on providing education remotely. It will set out 4 key areas that leaders should consider as part of any remote learning strategy. Once published, we will update, if required, our own guidelines in this respect.

Online teaching will follow the same principles as set out in the school's code of conduct.

We will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. All staff, parents and carers will be made aware of the following considerations should the school deliver virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1 teaching unless agreed in advance with SLT
- Teaching will take place within normal school hours
- Staff and children will wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriately neutral areas Live classes will be delivered with more than one member of staff.
- Live classes will NOT be recorded as per our Data Protection Officer guidelines
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, enabling a family to 'get on' with their day.
- Language will be professional and appropriate, including any other household occupants in the background.
- Staff will only use platforms agreed by William Tyndale Primary School to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

This list is not exhaustive and may be amended if and when necessary.

10. Supporting children not in school

William Tyndale Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all pupils. Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, we will ensure that a communication plan is in place for that child or young person. Details of this plan will be recorded on our concern tracking template, as well as a record of any contact made with the child and/or their family.

The communication plans may include: email contact and/or phone contact, William Tyndale Primary School and our DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan which will be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight). Where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website; children will be signposted via 'banners' on their work as to who to seek support from if they need to.

We recognise that school is a protective factor for children and the current circumstances could affect the mental health of children and their parents or carers. Our teaching staff are aware of this and will take this into account when setting work for pupils and also in relation to their expectations of the quantity and quality of pupils' work whilst they are at home.

11. Supporting children in school

William Tyndale Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students and we will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Head Teacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate in order to maximise safety.

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 COVID-19. Health and Safety procedures will continue to be high priority.

We will ensure that, where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded in line with our normal procedures.

Where William Tyndale Primary School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – we will discuss them immediately with the Governing Body in conjunction with the local authority.

12. Peer on Peer Abuse

William Tyndale Primary School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of peer on peer abuse and supporting victims. Where we receive a report of peer on peer abuse, we will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE, 2019 and of those outlined within our Child Protection Policy. We will listen and work with children, parents or carers and multi-agency partners to ensure the safety and security of the child concerned. All concerns and actions will be recorded in line with our normal safeguarding processes and appropriate referrals made.

13. Islington Council Update 16th April

There are three distinct vulnerable groups:

1. Children with an allocated social worker identified by Children's Social Care (CSC) as:

- At significant risk: where there are credible concerns that a child is at imminent or immediate risk of harm that would warrant either a police protection or emergency protection order being granted.
- Children and Young people who become subject to S.47 investigations
- Children looked after or placed with family carers where there is a risk of placement breakdown
- Children subject to CP plans where there are concerns about transience
- Families where parental mental health, substance abuse and domestic abuse are known and reviewed weekly and if RAG Rated Red (high risk), must be visited

2. Children the school has also identified as vulnerable (who may or may not have an allocated social worker)
3. Children who have an EHCP

Monitoring and reporting arrangements:

1. **Children with an allocated social worker identified by CSC as above:**

These are the children we will be reporting on as Vulnerable in our local daily return:

CSC has identified those children and young people who they deem to be at 'high risk'. *It is important to note that this list does not necessarily equate to those children and young people who are already looked after, or on child protection plans and may include those who are currently on CIN plans or are known to targeted family support.*

For those attending Islington education provision:

The allocated Social Worker will continue to work with families to support children and young people to access provision. Where there is agreement that vulnerable children should attend school, CSC and school will follow the procedure outlined below if a vulnerable child who has been assessed by their social worker as being at 'high risk' and is expected to attend does not arrive:

- a. The school will contact parents or carers or emergency contacts in line with normal procedures and will notify the child/young person's social worker as soon as possible. Where contact is made, the parents or carers should be encouraged to bring the child to school in line with the agreed, existing arrangements. If they do not wish to do this, the social worker should be updated.
- b. Where we are unable to establish contact with the parent/s *during this period* DSLs will telephone Pupil Services on: 020 7527 3747 for advice and the completion of database and other checks to establish that the child is safe and well. If it is not possible to confirm that the child is safe and well, we will complete the LA's 'Missing Pupil Alert' (attached) as per usual procedures. The completed form should be returned to Pupilservices@islington.gov.uk.
- c. If no contact can be made with parents or carers, there should be further discussion with the allocated Social Worker and/or an escalation to CSCT depending on the nature of the risks and any other causes of concern.
- e. An Access and Engagement Officer (Pupil Services) or Early Years Officer(s) (Early Years and Childcare) will contact us to follow up on the daily attendance of those children and young people assessed by their social worker as being at high risk. During the initial contact, our preferred method and time for these daily updates will be agreed (e.g. email contact or phone call, and preferred time of day).

For this group, the allocated social worker has risk-assessed the child as being at high risk and, therefore safer in an education setting. Islington will have alerted us to these children.

2. **Children that we have also identified as vulnerable (who may or may not have an allocated social worker)** and that we deem to be safer within a nursery/school setting.

We already have arrangements in place for monitoring attendance and keeping in touch with those children we have identified as vulnerable who are not currently attending school either because they or their family are self-isolating or it is otherwise agreed that they are safer at home.

For this group, we will report those attending school as 'other' in our daily local return.

3. **Children who have an EHCP**

For children with an EHCP, decisions about whether a child is safer in education or at home will be taken in consultation with parents, school and LA, based on the best interests of the child and in consideration of the following:

- potential health risks to the individual from COVID-19, bearing in mind any underlying health conditions - this must be on an individual basis, with advice from an appropriate health professional where required;
- risk to the individual if some or all elements of their EHC plan cannot be delivered at all, and the risk if they cannot be delivered in the normal manner or in the usual setting (bearing in mind the relaxations introduced under the Coronavirus Act 2020);
- ability of the individual's parents or home to ensure their health and care needs can be met safely; and
- potential impact to the individual's wellbeing of changes to routine or the way in which provision is delivered.

A risk assessment tool has been developed locally to help inform decision-making.

14. Support from Islington Council

In Islington, the following people and services will continue to provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively:

- Head of the Virtual School: 0207 527 3993 or matthew.blood@islington.gov.uk
- Principal Officer Safeguarding in Education: 0207 527 5595 or michelle.virdi@islington.gov.uk
- Children's Services Contact Team: 0207 527 7400 for urgent child protection referrals and csct@islington.gov.uk for all other queries and CIN and Targeted Family Support Referrals
- LADO: 0207 527 8102 or lado@islington.gov.uk