



Hart Primary School

March 2020

Addendum to Child Protection Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19

Due to the current unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 virus, it is necessary that all schools are prepared and have appropriate arrangements in place in relation to the management of any safeguarding or child protection concerns both on and off site during this time. Therefore, we have produced this cover note/addendum to our existing school's Child Protection Policy to ensure all staff, Governors and Parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time.

Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies

Due to these unprecedented circumstances, St Peter's Elwick C of E Primary School building is closed. St Peter's Elwick and Hart Primary schools have merged care provision on to the Hart Primary School site so that we can provide care for those identified as vulnerable children, children with an EHCP and children of key workers.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Hill (Head Teacher at Hart and St Peter's).

The Deputy Designated Leads are Mrs Heaton (Executive Head Teacher of Hart and St Peter's), Mrs Wilson (Assistant Head Teacher of Hart and St Peter's), Miss Leighton (Assistant Head Teacher of Hart and St Peter's), Miss Pickles (UPS Class Teacher at St Peter's), Mrs James (UPS Class Teacher at Hart) and Colin Reid (Safeguarding Governor)

The staff listed will continue to be our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies due to their level of training and skill. However, due to these unprecedented circumstances, they may not always be physically present at the school site every day. When there isn't a DSL or Deputy Designated Lead on the school site, there will be a DSL/Deputy DSL on call who can be present at the school site at short notice if any incidents of a child protection nature occur. A rota is sent to all staff so that all staff are aware. Where possible, there will either be a teacher and a TA from one of the schools present (one of whom will have a first aid qualification)

If we were to close both schools, during this period our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will continue to remain in contact with those children who we deem are vulnerable or have a multi-agency statutory plan in place to safeguard them. The website will inform of the closure and Child Protection Arrangements are available on the Safeguarding Page and Policy Page of St Peter's Elwick and Hart Primary School's website.

Children moving across provisions and merging provision due to school closures

Due to these unprecedented circumstances, St Peter's Elwick C of E Primary School building is closed and care is provided at Hart Primary School. Staff can be contacted on 01429 273283 or at the info@hartelwickfederation.org.uk email and the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are as listed above. Information regarding these children has been shared between Hart and St Peter's staff in the interests of safeguarding and protecting our children. This information has followed appropriate confidentiality protocols and is in line with the GDPR and Data Protection Act.

Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children

The Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies at each school are fully aware of their vulnerable children and those they are expecting into school each day, should that child not arrive then the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy will attempt to make contact with the parent or carer immediately and if no response, will follow the school's 'First Response' procedure.

Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies, where organisationally feasible and possible, aim to contact vulnerable children and their families with a social worker attached at least weekly. All calls and attempts to contact will be logged on CPOMS. If there are any issues raised during this time regarding their care, safety or ability to be contacted then the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will follow their local safeguarding procedures and contact their social worker/ local front door services / Children's Hub (01429 284284) immediately (as per our Child Protection Policy).

Availability and contact arrangements for families and professionals who wish to make contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies

During these unprecedented circumstances the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be available to be contacted by children, families and other services and agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all our vulnerable children. They can be contacted via the telephone number (01429 273283) in the first instance and/or info@hartelwickfederation.org.uk and whether they are on or off site they will endeavour to gain contact with any family or professional as soon as possible.

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day 9am-3.30pm ONLY - this includes the Easter holidays. Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving calls and messages outside of these times. In the event that children or families need support immediately please contact our front door services immediately (as per the information within the Child Protection Policy) or contact the Police.

Concerns over a staff member

If staff have concerns about a staff member who may pose a safeguarding risk to children, they must follow the school's Whistle Blowing Procedures.

Response to safeguarding or child protection concerns

As always, our school's duty of care is to keep children safe and while the arrangements of the physical care of children and physical presence of our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies may be different during this time, the school's response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school's Child Protection Policy.

Issued 27th March 2020

Revised 28th March 2020 in light of

DFE issued interim coronavirus (Covid -19): safeguarding in schools colleges and other providers late on Friday.

<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>