



Child protection/safeguarding Policy addendum

Coronavirus (COVID-19). January 2020

Our school is currently operating in a different way in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The school is currently open for children who have parents who are keyworkers and our most vulnerable pupils. This has dramatically reduced the numbers of students and staff in school but this is allowing us to ensure that we are following government guidelines in relation to social distancing and 'stay at home' guidance.

A number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy DSL will always be available, and if not on site all staff have remote access to DSL and DDSL. The DSL or DDSL is always contactable by phone and all staff have their phone numbers
- 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

At Beverley School we are following the latest guidance from the Department for Education

Restricting attendance during national lockdown: schools

Guidance for all schools in England

January 2021

During the period of national lockdown, schools, alternative provision (AP), special schools, colleges and wraparound childcare and other out-of-school activities for children should allow only vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers to attend (recognising that the characteristics of the cohorts in special schools and alternative provision will mean these settings continue to offer face to face provision for all pupils, where appropriate). All other pupils and students should not attend and should learn remotely until February half term....

...We know that receiving face-to-face education is best for children's mental health and for their educational achievement. We will continue to review the restrictions on schools, colleges and universities and will ensure that children and young people return to face-to-face education as soon as possible. Limiting attendance does not suggest that schools and colleges have become significantly less safe for young people. Instead limiting attendance is about supporting the reduction of the overall number of social contacts in our communities. We have resisted restrictions on attendance at schools since the first lockdown but, in the face of the rapidly rising numbers of cases across the country and intense pressure on the NHS, we now need to use every lever at our disposal to reduce all our social contacts wherever possible...

...Schools must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures. Schools should thoroughly review their health and safety risk assessments and plans that address the risks identified using the system of controls, with which schools will now be familiar.

Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people stay at home if they:*
- are ill with virus symptoms*
- have tested positive, even if asymptomatic*
- have been advised by NHS Test and Trace to do so*
- are household members of a positive case, even if that case is asymptomatic*
- are required to self-isolate for travel-related reasons*
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene*
- enhanced cleaning and ventilation arrangements*
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace*
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible*
- minimise the potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable*

How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances, including how many children need to attend during this period, and will (as much as possible) include:

- keeping children in consistent groups*
- avoiding contact between groups*

- *arranging classrooms with forward facing desks*
- *staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible*

What we are doing at Beverley School to ensure the safety of our pupils

All pupils will be following one of two pathways of education. Pathway One: Face to face teaching within school. Pathway 2: remote learning package at home.

- Weekly contact is being made with every family whose child is not attending school, this is by phone call and other modes of communication such as text/email/class dojo. Staff, when phoning, are checking on key information such as well-being, internet use. Staff are, where appropriate, asking to speak to the pupil.
- Staff are regularly updating work ideas and a pack of work has been sent home where appropriate
- The DSL and Deputy DSL are also making contact with specific families at least weekly to ensure that no child is at risk
- Communication with social care remains paramount and multi-agency work continues albeit remotely.
- All staff have contact details for the DSL and deputy DSL's. The DSL is contactable daily and if staff are unable to contact they inform one of our deputy DSL's
- Currently there is a DSL or Deputy DSL at school every day during term time
- Any contact with families is being recorded on the school's system (CPOMs) and this is reviewed by DSL and SLT.
- On Line e-safety guidelines and advice has been posted onto the school website and families have been informed about this information.
- Safety Plans for specific families are being written by Social Care, school have had input into these and social Care are sharing plans with school once completed.
- School continue to work on the guidance provided by the Local Authority and completing risk assessments accordingly for pupils not attending school.
- DSL and deputy DSLs have completed updated Child Protection training in March 2020
- All pupils eligible for FSM are receiving this
- Attendance continue to be monitored daily
- Staff who are in contact with pupils at school ~~should~~ remain vigilant about social distancing and encourage high standards of hygiene, both in themselves and for students – in particular handwashing and use of hand sanitisers.

The key principles throughout our policy remain the same