



Child protection & Safeguarding updates during COVID – 19 crisis

In light of advice given by the DFE all schools have been asked to ensure their Child Protection policies are updated accordingly. In response to the current crisis, the way we as a school are operating is fundamentally different, although a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same.

- In relation to safeguarding, the best interests of our children will continue to come first
- If anyone in school has a safeguarding concern about a child they will continue to act upon this and act immediately
- A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy safeguarding lead will be available
- No unsuitable or unessential personnel will be permitted entry to our school premise and will have no access to any children who may be on site
- Children will continue to be protected on-line

The following updates will ensure that our approach to safeguarding and child protection continues to keep our children safe during this unprecedented crisis.

Contacts:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Mrs J Dolphin - 01429 267768
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): Mrs N Brownless – 01429 267768
- Safeguarding Governor: Mrs P Carroll
- Hartlepool First Contact: 01429 284284
- Emergency Duty Team: 08702 402994
- NSPCC whistle blowing helpline: 0800 0280285
- Local Authority Designated Officer: Phil Curtis – 01429 401844
email: phil.curtis@hartlepool.gov.uk
secure email: lado@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk

Please note that during the crisis/school closure, there will be a member of the Senior Leadership Team available on a daily basis who will take responsibility for and co-ordinate safeguarding *on site in the absence of the DSL or deputy*. Wherever the need arises and/or in any emergency, *the DSL and/or deputy will make themselves available to advise the member of SLT*. The name of the SLT on site will be shared with staff via email prior to the start of each week.

In the event of the DSL or deputy being absent due to illness the member of the SLT would contact a trained DSL within the Local Authority/Cluster of schools and will have direct access to this information in school. This is not included within the policy, as this contact may be subject to change during the ongoing crisis.

Vulnerable Children

The school will continue to work with and support children's social workers and local authority virtual school heads to protect vulnerable children. This will include liaising with

relevant providers and ensuring vulnerable children can attend school where appropriate and where no other suitable childcare provision is available. If circumstances prevent a vulnerable child from attending school, a 'care call' and/or a 'welfare check' will be made to the home to check their well-being.

Pupils and staff on site

The school will continue to be a safe place for children to attend. We will ensure that there is appropriate supervision on site to maximise safety and refer to government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing measures and handwashing etc, to limit the spread of COVID-19. These measures will be updated in-line with ongoing advice.

Remote Learning

The school will continue to provide a safe environment for on-line learning. All pupils and staff must continue to follow guidance outline in the acceptable use policies held in school.

Additional information pertaining to online safety measures for parents will be shared with families via the school website and Facebook page.

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

Pastoral Support

We recognise that school can be a safe and protective place for many of our children and that the current circumstances may have an impact upon the mental well-being and health of our pupils and parents. Staff will contact families they feel may be adversely affected and will be vigilant for signs of safeguarding risk or emotional distress.

Where a pupil is already known to the school as being in need, or is in receipt of pastoral support through our PSA, the DSL will ensure that a support plan is in place for that child. Additionally, our Parent Support Advisor will make regular contact with identified families and or those whom are deemed vulnerable.

Safeguarding concerns should be reported in the normal manner – to the 'designated' personnel (as outlined above). These concerns should be reported without delay and recorded in the normal way.

Pupils or parents with a pastoral concern should contact their child's class teacher via the school email in the first instance. admin.stbegas@school.hartlepool.gov.uk

Working in Partnership

We continue to work closely in partnership with our local safeguarding partners and other local agencies.

Updated advice based upon advice given by HSSCP:

All schools and colleges have been asked to ensure that their Child Protection Policies are updated accordingly. This can be done via an addendum to existing policy documentation to include:

