

COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Hart Plain Junior School - January 2021 – Addendum

Context

From 4th January 2021, parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were 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 cannot be safely cared for at home. Remote learning has been provided for all those not coming into school.

This addendum of the Hart Plain Junior School Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy will remain in place throughout the period of closure and contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

Vulnerable children, Attendance monitoring, Designated Safeguarding Lead, Reporting a concern, Safeguarding Training and induction, Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff, Online safety in schools and colleges, Children and online safety away from school and college, Supporting children not in school, Supporting children in school, Peer on Peer Abuse.

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include 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 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.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school 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.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

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

Hart Plain Junior 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.

Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. School will be monitoring contact with all of our vulnerable students. We will also be in contact with social workers regarding attendance.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Hart Plain Junior School has a Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and 2 Deputy DSLs.

The Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Charlotte Faithfull

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Sarah Atkins and Claire Tunnicliffe

There will be a designated DSL on-site or contactable at all times. Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, the most senior member of staff will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, CPOMS and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college. The home telephone number of the DSL is available in school and should be given to social workers and any representative of Children's Services.

A trained DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multiagency meetings, which can be done remotely.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via CPOMS.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home, they should email all of the Designated Safeguarding Leads. This will ensure that the concern is received. An email chain has been set up and emails should be sent to safeguarding@hpjs.co.uk

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 headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the headteacher. Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: James Mullineaux.

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus. However, the school have moved to an online training suite and staff are therefore currently up to date with required training.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL team should 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 enter Hart Plain Junior School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. However, it is our intention that no staff recruitment should be needed and that no volunteers will attend the site

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 the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

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, Hart Plain Junior School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (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.

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

Hart Plain Junior School 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.

Hart Plain Junior School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made 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, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Hart Plain Junior School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Online safety in schools and colleges

Hart Plain Junior School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where pupils are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Children and online safety away from school

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

Hart Plain Junior School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons e.g photos or videos to support learning at home:

- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the picture.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and the background should be appropriate.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.

Supporting children not in school

Hart Plain Junior School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

All children are being contacted by the year team on a weekly basis. Work completion is also being tracked. Should neither take place then further action will be undertaken. Please see flowchart. Action taken by the DSL/SLT team may vary depending on knowledge of the child and family. The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits (to be avoided if at all possible). Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded. Referrals will be made if appropriate.

Hart Plain Junior School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website. A safeguarding page has been added to the remote learning section of our website.

Hart Plain Junior School recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at Hart Plain Junior School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Hart Plain Junior School 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.

Supporting children in school

Hart Plain Junior School

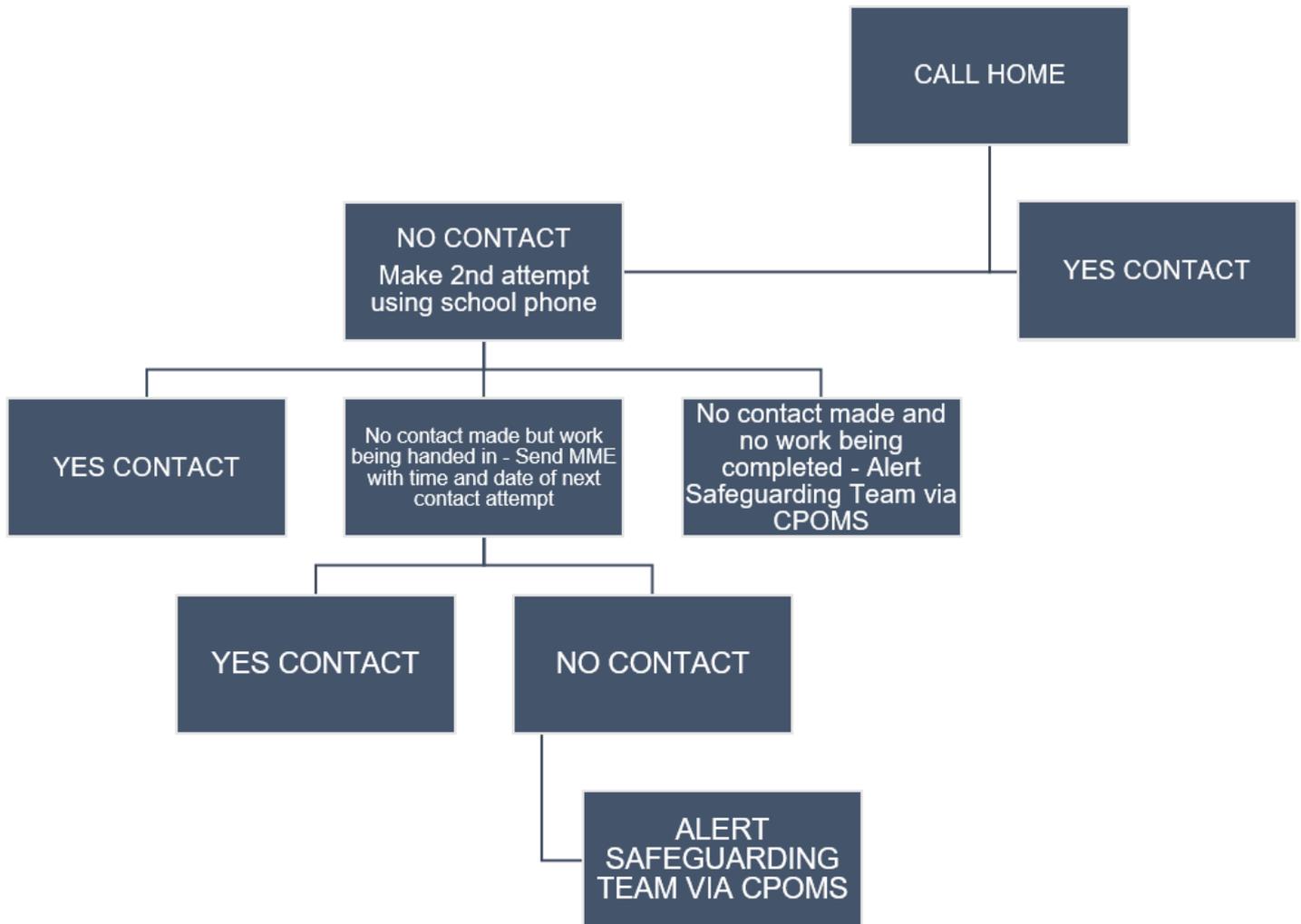
- is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils.
- will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.
- will refer to the Government 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 COVID19.
- 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 on CPOMS.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Hart Plain Junior School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within the Child Protection Policy. The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi- agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

Contact Home Protocol – Children working at home

Contact should be made with all children weekly



YES CONTACT PROTOCOL

- 1) Record contact on spreadsheet
- 2) If a safeguarding concern also follow safeguarding protocol above
- 3) Speak to DSL about concern

CPOMS ALERT PROTOCOL

- 1) Insert incident under contact school closure category
- 2) Assign to Charlotte Faithfull
- 3) Speak to DSL about concern