BRIDGEWATER SCHOOL

WORSLEY, MANCHESTER

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COVID-19 Addendum to the BWS Safeguarding Policy
Phased return to school (June 1st 2020)

Introduction

The school community has been working remotely since the stipulation by the government on March 23rd that all non-essential businesses should close and people should work from home. Whilst working remotely staff and students have been subject to the safeguarding policy addendum relating to remote teaching and learning.

From the week commencing 1 June, we expect to be able to welcome back more children. The school has been working on a phased reintroduction taking account of the government guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020

as well as https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings alongside https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-school-premises-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/managing-school-premises-which-are-partially-open-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak together with coronavirus information and advice from the Health and Safety Executive. This guidance has necessitated thorough risk assessments, additional safety and cleaning measures and changes to the structure of the school day.

It is essential that on return the school continues to be a safe place for the students of BWS and that we continue to have regard to **KCSIE**. This sets out the following key principles that we will be observing;

- 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 should be available
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's work space and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

In addition to KCSIE we have also taken account of the additional Prevent guidance published in the government guidance https://educateagainsthate.com/blog/posts/school-closures-ongoing-prevent-management-support/

This update to the Safeguarding Policy highlights some of the changes necessitated by the above guidance in light of a return to school after the COVID19 pandemic.

The key principles of the full safeguarding policy continue to apply.

For Staff

- Staff and volunteers may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they see them in person following partial school closures
- Staff and volunteers must report to the DSL or designated Deputy if there are any safeguarding concerns about a child. This should be done immediately.
- The school should ensure that relevant safeguarding and welfare information held on all children (including returning children) remains accurate. BWS should seek information on all children as they return asking for an update on any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing of which they should be aware.
- DSL (and deputy) arrangements are as in the main policy. There will always be a DSL either on-site during the phased return or contactable by telephone.
- Where Peer on Peer abuse is identified we will apply the principles set out in the main policy.
- Where a safeguarding issue relates to a member of staff the principles of the main policy continue to apply.
- The safeguarding addendum for those being taught remotely will continue to apply.
- BWS will have regard for any updates provided by the DfE or Salford LEA and we will liaise regularly with external bodies.
- Where we have a pupil with an education, health and care (EHC) plans we will liaise with the relevant external body to carry out the requirements set out in the plan and to ensure the best outcomes for the child are met.
- Where appropriate BWS staff will work with and support children's social workers, the local authority virtual school head for looked-after and previously looked-after children and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners
- This update will form part of the full Safeguarding policy and will be sent to all staff and published on the school website.

For DSLs (and their deputies)

- There will be a DSL on-site or contactable via telephone once school returns, whilst remote working is still taking place.
- Where a DSL is not on-site there will always be a member of the SLT on-site to co-ordinate any safeguarding issues, including the management of records and communications with external bodies and to report to the DSL (or Deputies) any safeguarding issues.
- All staff on-site will know who is on duty and how to access a DSL or Deputy.
- For identified vulnerable students who continue to work remotely, pastoral staff will ensure contact is made with them to identify any concerns. Where personal phones are used, staff should withhold their personal numbers.

- Where DSL training runs out, online training can be explored during the period of lockdown but DSLs and their deputies should ensure that they keep up to date with the advice sent out by the DfE and Salford SSCB.

Identifying Vulnerable Students

Vulnerable children for the purposes of continued attendance during the coronavirus outbreak are those across all year groups who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and it is determined, following risk assessment (risk assessment guidance), that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
- have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued attendance. This might include children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training'), those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers and others at the provider and local authority's discretion

BWS currently has 0 students with an EHC plan.

BWS has identified 1 student as falling under this definition.

Attendance

- Vulnerable students, particularly those with an allocated social worker, are expected to attend, unless shielding or clinically vulnerable. This is particularly the case if they have not been attending school during the period of lockdown. BWS will remain in contact with the families of these students to ensure that we have a full picture of the family circumstances. Where there is non-attendance, the school will notify social workers,
- For vulnerable children who have an education health and care (EHC) plan, attendance is expected where it is determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment. For children who are deemed otherwise vulnerable, at the school, college or local authority discretion, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable. For those identified as vulnerable the school will contact families when students do not attend school. All parents have confirmed emergency contact details and these are updated on the school system.
- School will resume taking the attendance register from 1 June.

Staff training and safeguarding induction

- All staff have had safeguarding training and read KCSIE part 1. Staff will continue to follow the main safeguarding policy and have regard for its procedures. In the event that temporary staff are required in school, full induction on safeguarding and other policies will be provided.

Children moving schools and colleges

- BWS has remained open for the children of keyworkers throughout the lockdown period and parents have not had to send students to other centres. Should our vulnerable pupils attend another setting, contact would be made with the relevant body and any relevant welfare information shared. This of course would not contravene the current data protection laws that allow information to be shared in order to keep children safe.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

- In the unlikely event of recruitment during this current phase of lockdown, BWS would continue to have regard for the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of KCSIE.
- In the unlikely event of using volunteers the school will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances should a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.
- Where a member of staff has been engaged in critical volunteer work in another setting, the school recognises that there is no need for a new DBS on resumption of school duties. Where a current member of staff has volunteered for work in another setting the school will engage with the receiving institution if they require assurances on the status of a volunteer.
- The school will continue to follow its 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 also continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's advice for making a referral. This referral will be made to misconduct.teacher@education.gov.uk during the current crisis.
- A rota for staff and volunteers is produced weekly so that on any given day the school knows 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.

Mental health

- The school recognises that negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current pandemic circumstances, can affect the mental health of children and their parents. As more children return to school support will be offered by the school for our students.

- We will have regard for the government guidance in **https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2** and offer the most appropriate support either in the school setting or over the telephone if remote learning continues.

Online safety in schools and colleges

- With a mixture of remote teaching and learning and school based teaching, staff will continue to have regard for the *remote teaching guidance* issued at the beginning of lockdown. This forms part of the staff code of conduct and offers advice and support to ensure teachers observe the highest standards of safety whilst teaching online. This has regard for the principles set out in the guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings published by the Safer Recruitment Consortium. https://www.saferrecruitmentconsortium.org/
- Within school the monitoring and filter systems will continue to protect students online. ICT staff can work both remotely and in school should the need arise.
- Useful addresses for issues involving internet safety can be found below

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-in-schools-and-colleges-questions-from-the-governing-board

https://www.internetmatters.org/about-us/vulnerable-children-in-a-digital-world-report/

The UK Safer Internet Centre's professional online safety helpline, email helpline@saferinternet.org.uk or telephone 0344 381 4772 provides support for the children's workforce with any online safety issues they face.

The https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/ also provides useful support and training opportunities for professionals.

https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/ for advice on making a report about online abuse

We realise 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 continue to be made to children's social care and as required the police.

We are in regular contact with parents and carers and in our communications we will continue to reinforce the importance of children being safe online. It will be especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will asked to access and be clear who from the school or college (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online.

Appendix

Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/ provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- https://parentinfo.org/ is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/parent-and-carer-toolkit offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- https://www.internetmatters.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIktuA5LWK2wIVRYXVCh2afg2aEAAYASAAEgIJ5vD_BwE provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- http://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/ has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- https://www.net-aware.org.uk/ has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC and O2, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- https://www.ltai.info/staying-safe-online/ has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services

The Government has also provided the following resources:

- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online includes advice about specific harms such as online child sexual abuse, sexting, and cyberbullying
- https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-staying-safe-online includes security and privacy settings, blocking unsuitable content, and parental controls