

BRIDGEWATER SCHOOL

WORSLEY, MANCHESTER

M28 2WQ

Safeguarding Policy: **Remote Learning and Safeguarding Addendum**

The following guidelines have been devised to supplement the school's Safeguarding Policy during the period of remote learning due to the COVID-19 outbreak. These do not replace the official school policy, much of which still stands when safeguarding remotely. The principle of reporting any possible safeguarding concerns still stands as if school was still in attendance, but these guidelines will help to point staff members in the right direction should the need arise.

Designated safeguarding leads (DSLs)

Whilst providing care for children of keyworkers onsite there will usually be a trained DSL onsite although we recognise that this will not always be the case. In the event that JATN, MB, MR or Ply are not on-site, all are contactable via telephone or via online video chat through Zoom or Google Meets.

It is acknowledged by the government that DSL training is very unlikely to take place during this period and the DSL (JATN) (and deputies PLY/MB/MR) who have been trained will continue to be classed as trained DSLs even if they miss their refresher training.

Attendance

During this crisis the school recognises that it does not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. The Office will complete a daily online attendance form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. The Office will complete a daily online attendance form, as provided by the DofE. This allows for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allows schools to provide accurate, up-to-date data to the department on the number of children taking up places.

Online safety in schools and colleges

The school will continue to offer a safe environment in school and will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children when they are online on the school IT systems or recommended resources. At present LT has responsibility for this area and any queries should be directed towards him.

Vulnerable Children and Keyworkers

The school is open for the children of keyworkers and all aspects of safeguarding will continue to apply to those children being educated onsite as well as remotely. For those who we regard as vulnerable, BWS will continue to work with Social Services and Parents or Guardians and monitor their welfare either onsite or through regular communications with all parties.

Children and online safety away from school and college

Whilst acknowledging that the majority of our children will not be physically attending the school or college, we recognise our responsibility to look out for signs a child may be at risk. *Where any staff member has such concerns these should be dealt with as per the Safeguarding policy* and where appropriate referrals should still be made to the DSL (or Deputy), children's social care and as required, the police. Similarly any suspicion of peer-on-peer abuse should be addressed as per the existing safeguarding policy and anti-bullying policy.

All staff should consider the safety of their children when they are asked to work online. The starting point for online teaching should be that the same principles as set out in the school's staff code of conduct as well as in the recently issued addendum – the staff agreement for online teaching. This policy outlines our rules on acceptable use of technologies, staff pupil/student relationships and communication, including the use of social media. It also includes rules on where and how online teaching should take place.

Bridgewater School will ensure that any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. The staff agreement on remote learning includes information on the use of data and privacy laws. Bridgewater School is in regular contact with parents and carers during this period of closure. We are reinforcing the importance of children being safe online. Parents and carers are aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and should be clear who their child is going to be interacting with online. They are also aware of reporting routes should there be any concerns with online learning.

Alongside this we would also like to signpost children to age appropriate practical support from the following:

Childline - for support

UK Safer Internet Centre - to report and remove harmful online content

CEOP - for advice on making a report about online abuse

Additional support or guidance for parents can be found on the following sites:

- Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online (<https://www.internetmatters.org/>)
- London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online (<https://www.lgfl.net/default.aspx>)
- Net-aware - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC (<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>)

- Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online (<https://parentinfo.org/>)
- Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online (<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>)
- UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers (<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>)