

**PACKWOOD HAUGH (Including EYFS)**

**Annex to Child Protection policy – version 1.0**

**Child protection during the COVID-19 measures**

**Context**

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual. Most children are no longer in a school setting and staff numbers have been affected by the outbreak.

Schools have been asked to provide care for children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This Annex to our Child Protection policy sets out details of our safeguarding arrangements for:

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**Version control and dissemination**

This is version 1.0 of this annex. It will be reviewed by our DSL or a deputy DSL on a weekly basis as circumstances continue to evolve or following updated Department for Education advice or guidance. It is available on the school website as a standalone document and is made available to staff by Sue Rigby emailing it to all staff.

We will ensure that on any given day all staff in attendance will be aware of who the DSL and deputy DSLs are and how staff can to speak to them.

**Safeguarding priority**

During these challenging times the safeguarding of all children at our school – whether they are currently at home or in attendance – continues to be our priority. The following fundamental safeguarding principles remain the same:

* the best interests of children continue to come first
* if anyone in our school has a safeguarding concern, they will act immediately
* a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy DSL will always be available
* no unsuitable people will be allowed to gain access to children
* children should continue to be protected when they are online.

**Current school position**

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| *For the Spring Term 2021 the School is implementing a remote learning policy. Children of keyworkers and those who are vulnerable may come to school and access the remote learning policy in school. All staff attending the school site and children in Years 7 and 8 will be tested for Covid 19 by the school nurse using the lateral flow tests on a weekly basis.* |

Any staff that care for children on site during the continuing crisis are all employees of the School and have completed the School’s safeguarding induction and training. In the absence of Sue Rigby being on site, Roy Chambers Deputy Head and Deputy DSL will act as the DSL on site.

**Safeguarding partners’ advice**

We continue to work closely with our three safeguarding partners, and we will ensure this annex is consistent with their advice. This will include expectations for supporting children with education, the local authority designated officer and children’s social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need. There are no children currently on the School role with an EHC plan (Education & Health Care). The current advice is below.

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| *The safeguarding arrangements with the safeguarding partners are working as normal. Please contact COMPASS via the First Point of Contact with any concerns – 0845 678 9021*  *For out of hours contact the emergency duty team – 03045 6789 040*  *This is the link for all contact numbers:*  [*http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/media/1220/ssp-contacts-definitions-handout-january-2020.pdf*](http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/media/1220/ssp-contacts-definitions-handout-january-2020.pdf) |

**Roles and responsibilities**

The roles and responsibilities for safeguarding in our school remain in line with our Child Protection Policy.

The DSL, Sue Rigby, will be available by phone and Roy Chambers, Deputy Head and Deputy DSL will be on site at all times. The Deputy DSL, James Mullock, will be on site. The Headmaster, Rob Fox, will also be on site at all times. If possible, our DSL and at least one deputy DSL will be available on site during the school day.

**The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) for child protection is** Sue Rigby

Contact details: email: [sjr@packwood-haugh.co.uk](mailto:sjr@packwood-haugh.co.uk) Tel: 01939 260 217

**The deputy designated leads are** Roy Chambers, James Mullock and Mary Moore

Contact details: email: [rac@packwood-haugh.co.uk](mailto:rac@packwood-haugh.co.uk) Tel: 07891822823

[jcm@packwood-haugh.co.uk](mailto:jcm@packwood-haugh.co.uk) Tel: 07800743672

[mm@packwood-haugh.co.uk](mailto:mm@packwood-haugh.co.uk) Tel: 01939 260217

**Vulnerable children**

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with EHC plans. There are currently no children at Packwood Haugh School who have a social worker on and EHC plan.

**Increased vulnerability or risk**

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Staff will be working closely with the children through form time and PSHE lessons to support the children with their mental health.

Our staff will be aware of the mental health of [children](about:blank) and their [parents and carers](about:blank) and will contact the DSL or a deputy if they have any concerns.

**Attendance**

Where a child is expected but does not arrive at school, we will follow our attendance procedure and attempt to contact the family. If contact cannot be made, the DSL or a deputy DSL will be informed.

The DSL or a deputy will attempt to contact the parents through various methods, such as telephone, Facetime or Skype or by contacting a relative or guardian agency in the first instance. If contact cannot be made or if the DSL or a deputy DSL deems it necessary, we will undertake a home visit or ask an appropriate agency to do so. A risk assessment will be carried out before any such visit is made to ensure staff the family are not put at risk.

**Reporting concerns about children or staff**

The importance of all staff acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns remains. Staff and volunteers will continue to follow our Child Protection procedures as outlined in the Child Protection Policy which can be found in the Staff Handbook and on the School website and advise the DSL of any concerns they have about any child, including those who are not attending school for any reason.

The varied arrangements in place as a result of the COVID-19 measures do not reduce the risks that children may face from staff or volunteers. As such, it remains extremely important that any allegations of abuse made against staff attending our school are dealt with thoroughly and efficiently and in accordance with our Allegations Against Staff Policy which can be found in the Staff Handbook.

**Staff training and induction**

The DSL and the Deputy DSL (and the Headmaster) all have current Level 3 qualifications.

All current school staff have received safeguarding training and have read Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020. When new staff are recruited or volunteers join us, they will receive a safeguarding induction in accordance with our Child Protection Policy.

If staff from another setting attend the school site then, in line with government guidance, we will not undertake any additional safeguarding checks if the setting providing those staff confirm that:

* the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children’s barred list check and, that in the opinion of that setting, nothing resulted from those checks that provided any caused for concern
* there are no safeguarding investigations into the conduct of that individual
* the individual remains suitable to work with children.

**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, we will continue to follow our Safer Recruitment procedures outlined in the Child Protection Policy and the Recruitment Policy, both found in the Staff Handbook.

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.

For volunteers we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to engage in regulated activity.

It is essential from a safeguarding perspective that we are aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers are on our school site and that the appropriate checks have been carried out on those individuals. We will continue to maintain our single central record (SCR) during these measures to ensure we have this awareness.

**Peer on peer abuse**

We recognise that children can abuse their peers and our staff are clear about the school’s policy and procedures regarding peer on peer abuse. All peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. We also recognise that abuse can still occur during a school closure or partial closure and between those children who do attend the school site during these measures.

Our staff will remain vigilant to the [signs of peer-on-peer abuse](about:blank) and will follow the process set out in our Child Protection Policy, which can be accessed here.

**Online safety**

It is likely that children will be using the internet and engaging with social media far more during this time. Our staff are aware of the signs of cyberbullying and other online risks and our filtering and monitoring software remains in use during this time to safeguarding and support children.

Our staff will follow the process for online safety set out in our Child Protection Policy, E-Safety Policy and Behaviour Policy. All staff and children must be mindful of the AUP that they have signed. The staff, children and parents have been made aware of the School’s Remote Learning Policy, Advice on Remote Learning for Parents and Advice on Remote learning for Pupils.

Staff who interact with children online will continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. If a staff member is concerned about a child, that staff member will follow the approach set out in this annex and report that concern to the DSL or to a deputy DSL.

**New children at the school**

Children may join our school from other settings. When they do, we will seek from those settings the relevant welfare and child protection information. This is relevant for all children that join us, but it will be especially important where children are vulnerable.

For vulnerable children we will ensure we understand the reasons for the vulnerability and any arrangements in place to support them. As a minimum we will seek access to that child’s EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or, for looked-after children, their personal education plan and know who the child’s social worker (and, for looked-after children, who the responsible VSH is).

Ideally this will happen before a child arrives but where that is not possible it will happen as soon as reasonably practicable.

Any exchanges of information will ideally happen at DSL (or deputy) level, and likewise between special educational needs co-ordinators/named individual with oversight of SEN provision for children with EHC plans. However, it is acknowledged this may not always be possible. Where this is the case our school senior leaders will take responsibility.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment based on the information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know the information.

**Supporting children not in school**

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive additional pastoral support in school, they will ensure that a communication plan is in place to support that child. Details of that plan will be recorded in the safeguarding file for that child. It will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains current during these measures.

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| **Authorised by the Governing Body**: Yes Date: 12/10/2020 |