

Glenmere Primary School

COVID-19 Child Protection Policy Addendum (January 2021)

During the arrangements put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Child Protection/Safeguarding policy will continue to apply unless superseded by the provisions set out here. This addendum will be reviewed and revised to take account of ongoing changes to COVID-19 guidance and arrangements. It will be shared with all staff and volunteers. This current addendum has been revised to take account of the Safeguarding Guidance ([see page 39](#)) outlined in [Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools Guidance for all schools in England \(DfE\)](#).

- The School will continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping children safe in education](#).
- A trained DSL (or deputy) will be available on site. However, where this may not be possible, two options will be considered:
 - a. a trained DSL (or deputy) from the school will be available to be contacted via phone or online video, for example working from home;
- Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to one of the above options, a senior leader would take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.
- Staff will continue to report all safeguarding concerns in the usual way (including allegations and safeguarding concerns about adults working in school) and be thoroughly briefed about any changes that are required – eg where the DSL or headteacher may be isolating at home.
- Referrals to safeguarding agencies (eg Children and Family Specialist Services, Police etc) will be made in the usual way.
- While schools are restricting attendance during the national lockdown children with a social worker, children with an EHCP and children who are judged to be vulnerable will be offered a school place, along with those whose parents/carers are critical workers (subject to a site risk assessment).
- Where a child known to social care is required to be at home, the DSL will immediately inform the social care worker allocated to the case.
- Parents/carers of vulnerable children who are asked to be at home will be regularly contacted by school staff. Where parents or carers do not respond to calls or visits, a risk assessment will be completed and a referral to Children's Social Care or the Inclusion Service will be made if required.
- There may be a greater prevalence of mental health concerns when children are at home. Staff will be briefed about this and time will be made available to the DSL or other relevant staff to support children remotely and as required.
- The school will adopt national and local guidance in the case of pupil absence or where children are not engaging with their learning at home. Online engagement will be monitored each week and contact will be made each with families not engaging.
- Where a parent or carer indicates that they intend to electively home educate because of concerns related to COVID-19, before removing the child from the school roll, a meeting will be arranged involving the parent / carer, the local authority Inclusion Service and any other key professional eg social worker. All the options will be explored in order that the parents fully understand what is involved and so that the best interests of each individual child can be carefully considered before making a final decision. This is particularly important where vulnerable children, children with a social worker and those at greatest risk of harm are

involved. Where an EHCP is in place for the child the local authority will be asked to give consent to Elective Home Education before removing the child from the school roll.

- Staff engaged in remote teaching and learning will follow the code of conduct guidance set out in the “Safer Working Practice Addendum” April 2020 (Safer Recruitment Consortium).
- The online safety of children who are learning remotely at home will be assessed and any necessary adjustments made to networks and school devices used for this purpose. Children will be taught how to stay safe online when they are learning remotely.
- Safer Recruitment procedures will continue to be robustly applied including where virtual interviews may be used and if so, a risk assessment will be completed.
- The Single Central Record will be continuously updated and include the details of any staff engaged in teaching and learning from home and any catch-up tutors employed by the school, for example.