



Discovery Special Academy

Addendum to Child Protection Policy

Due to circumstances of COVID-19

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Target audience:	TRUST BOARD AND ALL TRUST EMPLOYEES

Due to the current unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 virus it is necessary that all schools are prepared and have appropriate arrangements in place in relation to the management of any safeguarding or child protection concerns both on and off site during this time. Therefore, we have produced this revised cover note/addendum to our existing trust and academies Child Protection Policy to ensure all staff, trustees and parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time.

Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies

On Site:

While our academy site remains open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, and begins to reintegrate more children into the academy, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are Miss Jennifer Duncan and Mrs Annmarie Titchener. They continue to be our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies due to their level of training and skill. However due to these unprecedented circumstances they will not all physically be on our academy site every day. If any incidents of a child protection nature occur, a member of the safeguarding and welfare team will always be available, and will ensure all policy and procedure is followed. This has been organised as follows, and will be regularly reviewed and updated in line with levels of reintegration of pupils back into the academy.

Should our academy site be entirely closed, or reopened, then we will update our website and Child Protection Policy as appropriate, in line with statutory safeguarding requirements.

Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children

As our academy remains open, the Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are fully aware of their vulnerable children and those they are expecting into the academy each day. Should that child not arrive then the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy will make contact with the parent or carer and if no response contact front door services immediately.

For those children still home learning, or isolating due to medical advice, Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will continue to contact and /or have sighting over any vulnerable children and their families in the following timescales:

Children the subject of a Child Protection Plan (twice weekly as minimum)

Children who have a Child in Need Plan (twice weekly)

Looked After Children (twice weekly dependent on the child's individual placement needs)

Children with an Early Help Plan (weekly).

If there are any issues raised during this time regarding their care, safety or ability to be contacted then the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will follow their local safeguarding procedures and contact their local front door services immediately (as per our Child Protection Policy).

Availability and contact arrangements for families and professionals who wish to make contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies

During these unprecedented circumstances the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be available to be contacted by children, families and other services and agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all our vulnerable children. They can be contacted via the school telephone number in the first instance and whether they are on or off site they will gain contact with any family or professional as soon as possible.

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the academy day 9am-3pm ONLY.

In the event that children or families needing support immediately please contact front door services immediately (as per the information within the Child Protection Policy) or contact the Police

Response to safeguarding or child protection concerns

As always our academy's duty of care is to keep children safe. While the arrangements of the physical care of children and physical presence of our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies may be different during this time, the response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school's Child Protection Policy and statutory guidance for schools.

Upon the return of more children to the academy, staff and volunteers may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children, for example disclosures of risk of harm, peer on peer abuse or any negative experiences during the time of lockdown and isolation. Staff and volunteers should be clear that they must continue to follow our academy Child Protection Policy and report concerns immediately regarding any child to the Designated Safeguarding Leads (following the on/off site arrangements in place). This should be documented following our school's recording procedure of CPOMS. Every effort to gain accurate information from the parent and child on their return to the academy should be taken including, health, mental health, peer on peer abuse and any changes in circumstances.

Response to safeguarding concerns regarding adults in school

As stated in our Trust Child Protection Policy, any concerns that may be raised regarding any adult's behaviour in school towards a child should be reported immediately to the Headteacher.

Support for children who remain home schooled

Continued arrangements will remain in place for those children who are home schooled. Regular, agreed contact will remain in place for those children and their parents, including checking on how they are supported and supervised at home.

Attendance Procedures

Although attendance of children at school during this time is not statutory. Regular contact with children who are vulnerable should be maintained and actioned as stated above.

Re-issued 3rd June 2020