



# COVID-19 arrangements for safeguarding and child protection at Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust Academies

Please note- where this policy is being shared on our academy websites- all personal contact details are removed. Versions available to staff have the contact page intact.

**School name: Chepping View Primary Academy (leading the Trust's School Closure provision)**

**Policy owner: Victoria Morris**

**Date shared with governors and trustees: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

**Date shared with staff: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

**The safety and welfare of all children must always be the Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust priority and the principles within the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2019 and our CP Policy still apply.**

***TABLE of contents of personal contact details for DSLs has been removed for this website version of the policy.***

A member of the DSL team will always be available during school hours. The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a designated senior member of staff will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

## **Responsibilities**

We continue to take a whole school approach to safeguarding and it is the responsibility of all staff to report any concerns that they may have for the safety and/or welfare of any children with whom they have contact. This contact may be via e-mail, virtual teaching, through a phone call or directly with the child.

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children.

A written notification, Letter of Assurance, will be obtained from a setting or school outside of the Trust if any of their staff members come to work at an Inspiring Futures Partnership trust school and a risk assessment will be put in place.

Any volunteers coming into Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust will be subject to relevant checks being completed as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSiE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity. A risk assessment will be put in place on an individual basis.

Any staff or volunteers, carrying out duties in this trust, who are usually based in another setting outside of the trust, will read the academy's Child Protection Policy and KCSiE 2019, Part 1 and annexe A. They will be informed of who the DSLs are and made aware of the academy and local procedures for reporting concerns.

Induction to safeguarding training will be completed by the DSL for any volunteers who are not familiar with our academy.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current national emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the academy or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such,

Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust will continue to keep the Single Central Record (SCR) up to date in its academies as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Our DSLs and Principals will ensure that they keep informed of any up to date information, both at a local or national level, as a result of COVID-19, that will impact the welfare of all students within the trust and will ensure that relevant information is shared with all staff, including any staff who may be carrying out temporary duties.

They will also ensure that the child protection files are kept up to date and any required information is shared with the relevant agencies.

All staff are aware that reporting on CPOMs remains the way to report safeguarding concerns and that should a child be in immediate danger or a referral made to an outside agency, they should speak to the DSL in person or over the phone urgently, as they would in normal circumstances.

All staff continue to have a duty to report any concerns about the conduct or actions of any other member of staff. This report will be made to the Headteacher or Chair of Governors in accordance with the academy Whistleblowing Policy.

## **Vulnerable children**

Vulnerable children include:

- Children who have a social worker
- Children with Child in Need (CIN) Plans
- Children on Child Protection (CP) Plans
- Looked after children
- Young carers
- Disabled children
- Pupils with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans (0-25)

Children who are known to our academy and are deemed to be vulnerable have been offered a place in order to continue to attend, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. If, however, we are unable to staff our trust academies, due to illness, a place will be sought at a nearby setting.

Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust is offering support to those children and parents/carers, who have concerns about the child contracting Covid-19 through attendance at school. The trust will also refer the guidance published by Public Health England and follow their advice. In cases where the child has a social worker, the Deputy DSL/Learning mentor will make contact with them to discuss the concerns. Guidance will also be sought from the Virtual School Head for children who are looked after (CLA) by the DSL for these pupils..

Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust must identify those children who are a concern, but do not meet the criteria to be classed as a vulnerable child. These families will be contacted regularly via phone by the deputy DSL/Learning Mentor, SENDCo or Year group staff member, as appropriate. All contact will be recorded on CPOMs under the tag School Closure Contact.

Those with an EHCP have been risk-assessed by their Trust SENDCo and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. Many children and young people with EHC Plans can safely remain at home.

Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority Virtual School Head for looked-after and previously looked-after children. We will regularly review CP/CIN cases to determine vulnerability and prioritise resources accordingly. The lead person for this will be: Tanya Tadgell- Deputy DSL and Learning Mentor and Parmie Grewal DSL for LAC, Madasar Mirza DSL for Abbey View Primary Academy.

Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

## **Mental health**

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Teachers at our academy must be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work whilst they are at home. Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust will refer to the separate guidance on providing education remotely.

Appropriate support is in place for children of critical workers and vulnerable children attending school. The government guidance [mental health and behaviour in schools](#) will be referred to in order to support mental health issues that can bring about changes in a child's behaviour or emotional state, which can be displayed in a range of different ways, and that can be an indication of an underlying problem.

Support for pupils and students in the current circumstances will include existing provision in the academy (although this may be delivered in different ways, for example over the phone) or from specialist staff or support services. Further advice on support can be found on schoolsweb at <https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/covid-19-corona-virus-latest-advice/covid-19-mental-health-and-well-being/>

## **Online Safety**

All staff at Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust are reminded to familiarise themselves with the following policies:

- Staff code of conduct
- Acceptable users' policy
- Social media policy
- EsAfety policy

### **Children and online safety away from school**

It is important 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 still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems are in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

No live lessons will be delivered due to the safeguarding risk to staff and pupils and the age of the pupils.

[Guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on safe remote learning](#) and from the [London Grid for Learning on the use of videos and livestreaming](#) is available which could help plan online lessons and/or activities and deliver them safely.

Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust will ensure that children, who are being asked to work online, have very clear reporting routes in place so they can raise any concerns whilst online. As well as reporting routes back to school, children will be signposted to age-appropriate practical support from, for example:

- [Childline](#) - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse

For those students who are still accessing computers at school and therefore are online, school will still continue to ensure that the appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place. Esafety information will be shared with parents via email and on social media.

## **Supporting children in school**

Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust schools will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

## **Peer on Peer Abuse**

Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust recognises that during the period of partial school closure, children may have more frequent access to online devices, which has the potential to lead to online peer on peer abuse. These would include:

- Sexting
- Online abuse
- Peer-on-peer grooming
- Distribution of youth involved sexualised content

- Harassment

Where a Trust academy receives a report of peer on peer abuse, it will be addressed promptly and appropriately, following the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

The academy will listen and work with the child, parents/carers and multi-agency partners, including a report to the police, if required, to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

### **Attendance monitoring**

The DfE and County Council COVID 19 attendance process will be followed for every day the school is open.

For those children where it has been agreed between Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust, social workers and parents/carers that children will be attending school, the school will follow up on any pupil who does not arrive at the agreed time.

We will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school or discontinues, a DSL will notify their social worker.

To support the above, we will, when communicating with parents/carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

### **Children moving schools**

If any children are attending from another trust academy, all relevant welfare and child protection information will be shared with the receiving trust academy. All relevant contacts, including social care contacts will be held by the DSL of the child's own academy, who will be directly contactable by the receiving DSLs.

For looked-after children, any change in school must be led and managed by the Virtual School Head. The receiving academy must be made aware of the reason the child is vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them.

The receiving academy DSL will have access to a vulnerable 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 is (and, for looked-after children, who the responsible Virtual School Head is). All medical and dietary information will be shared with the receiving academy and suitable arrangements made for any children requiring medication to be administered. A risk assessment and protocol will be drawn up to cover individual cases. Contact telephone numbers will be shared with any receiving school. Wherever possible this will take place prior to the child arriving or as soon as possible following their arrival.

Any exchanges of information will happen at DSL (or deputy) level. For SEND pupils, the Trust SENDCo or Assistant SENDCO will ensure the relevant staff have the information they need. We will follow the advice about information sharing that can be found at paragraphs 76-83 of KCSIE.

**All staff will be given access to the amendment to the policy via CPOMs which will automatically record that they have read it.**