

## **Annex to Safeguarding Policy for LSEAT Bromley Hub COVID-19 changes to our Child Protection Policy 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and will be reviewed on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

### **Response to COVID-19**

Due to the significant changes over the Christmas period, the Tier 4 announcement and subsequently the Contingency Framework for London schools, the majority of our children, young people and staff will begin the Spring Term working from home but this is an ever changing situation. This is to support the health efforts in our regions as well as keeping our students, their families and our staff safe.

Despite the changes, the Hub's Safeguarding Policy is fundamentally the same: **children and young people always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in line with our established safeguarding procedures.**

This annex sets out some of the adjustments we are making in line with the changed arrangements in the school and following [advice from government](#) and local agencies.

### **Current position and local advice**

LSEAT Bromley Hub schools are currently closed for the majority of students and are operating remotely in terms of teaching and learning and welfare checks. The schools will be open however for critical worker children and also those deemed as most vulnerable where school is considered to be the safest place for them.

All students working remotely will have daily welfare checks and any safeguarding issues are immediately raised with DSLs and reported to Children's Social Care (CSC) where applicable. All concerns are also logged on our Child Protection Software (CPOMs) for recording purposes.

We continue to follow government guidelines and are working in close partnerships with our 3 safeguarding partners.

### **Reporting arrangements**

The Hub arrangements continue to operate in line with our Safeguarding policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies across the Hub are:

Bromley Beacon Academy, Orpington: DSL – Andrea Townsley, DDSL – Liz Burgess.

Bromley Beacon Academy, Bromley: DSL – Rani Chahal, DDSL – Sophie Grinham

Bromley Trust Academy, Hayes: DSL -Marcia White, DDSL – Jo Denhart/Myra Brown.

Bromley Trust Academy, Midfield: DSL – Paul Bailey, DDSL – Debbie Blake.

Bromley Trust Academy, Blenheim: DSL Marcia White, DDSL – Michele Barrett/ Julie Hawkes Rossi

Bromley Trust Academy, Alternative Curriculum College: DSL Grant Monaghan

Bramley Oak Academy: DSL – Kim Coppinger, DDSL – Chelsea Stewart

The Hub's approach ensures at least one DSL or deputy is always on site while the Hub is open.

Staff will continue to follow safeguarding procedures and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any child, whether in school or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Children's services may be affected by the impact of the virus on staff and an increased demand for services. Where a child is at risk of significant harm there may be a need to be persistent in referring concerns to the local authority. The arrangements for contacting children's services are:

**Bromley Numbers:**

02084617373  
02084617379  
02084617026  
03003038671 (EDT)

**Surrey Numbers:**

0300 470 9100 - 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday  
01483 517898 – out of hours duty team

Should a child in the school's view; be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond, the school will immediately follow the safeguarding children partnership escalation procedure and phone 999.

**Identifying vulnerability**

We have undertaken a scoping exercise to identify the most vulnerable children. Thorough risk assessments have been carried out on all students and all **key** vulnerable students have been highlighted. These students will be required to attend school unless there is agreement between CSC, parents and the school that being at home is safer at this time.

We have put in place specific arrangements in respect of the following groups if they are at home:

- Looked After Children – daily calls and contact with Virtual Head in regards to necessary support.
- Previously Looked After Children – daily calls and any extra support as required.
- Children subject to a Child Protection Plan – daily calls to parents and direct contact with students.

- Children who have, or have previously had, a social worker – daily calls if we have spoken with all social workers and at this time it is considered to be safer for the students to be at home.
- Children with an EHCP – daily calls and support provided in terms of learning and welfare where required.
- Children on the edge of social care involvement or pending allocation of a social worker – daily calls if we have spoken with CSC and at this time it is considered to be safer for the students to be at home.
- Other children the school considers vulnerable. More children may be added to this group in response to concerns raised with the DSL. These children can be offered care at school if required and concerns are escalated.

In addition, the following groups have specific arrangements around contact and support from the school.

- Children of critical workers who may attend school – although we have very few critical worker children, we will be open to these at all times.
- Children at home – all children receive daily calls and they have been provided with remote learning resources and key contacts to support them with welfare issues as well.

The plans in respect of each child in these groups will be reviewed for January 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 and consequently every two weeks.

#### Holiday arrangements

All students and parent/carers will be provided with emergency numbers that they can contact for advice and support if the remote learning is to continue until Spring Half Term.

#### Attendance

The Hub is following the [attendance guidance issued by government](#).

Where a child is expected and does not arrive, the school will follow our attendance procedure and make contact with the family. If contact is not possible by 9:30am the DSL must be informed. The DSL will attempt a range of methods to contact the parent (Skype, FaceTime, through a relative and emergency contacts etc.) but if necessary will arrange a home visit by the school or another appropriate agency. The risk of COVID-19 **does not override** the duty on the school to ensure children and young people are safe.

Those students who parents and school have agreed to remain at home, will be marked in accordance with the DfE Guidance as at January 2021.

#### Staff will be aware of increased risk

The pressures on children and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, [poverty](#), and financial or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in the setting of any work for children to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning – see

below). Staff will be aware of the mental health of both [children](#) and their [parents and carers](#), informing the DSL about any concerns.

### Peer on peer abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a partial closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the [signs of peer-on-peer abuse](#), including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision. Extra care should be taken where groups have mixed age, developmental stages, are attending other schools as an interim measure and similar. When making contact with these families our staff will ask about relationships between learners.

We also address the issue of peer-on-peer abuse in our remote learning curriculum through our daily contacts and relationships we have with our students.

### Risks online

Young people will be using the internet more during this period. The school will also use online approaches to deliver training or support. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of [cyberbullying](#) and [other risks online](#) and apply the same child-centred safeguarding practices as when children were learning at the school.

- The school continues to ensure [appropriate filters and monitors are in place](#).
- Our Trust will [review arrangements](#) to ensure they remain appropriate.
- The schools have taken on board guidance from the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) on safe remote learning and guidance for [safer working practice](#) from the Safer Recruitment Consortium. We have reviewed the code of conduct and information sharing policy accordingly.
- Staff have discussed the risk that professional boundaries could slip during this exceptional period and have been reminded of the school's code of conduct and importance of using school systems to communicate with children and their families.
- Children and young people accessing remote learning receive guidance on keeping safe online and know how to raise concerns with the school, [Childline](#), the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) and [CEOP](#).
- Parents and carers have received information about keeping children safe online with peers, the school, other education offers they may access and the wider internet community. We have set out the school's approach, including the sites children will be asked to access and set out who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online. Parents have been offered the following links:
  - [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
  - [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
  - [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
  - [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers
- Free additional support for staff in responding to online safety issues can be accessed from the [Professionals Online Safety Helpline at the UK Safer Internet Centre](#).

### **Allegations or concerns about staff**

With such different arrangements young people could be at greater risk of abuse from staff or volunteers. We remind all staff to maintain the view that 'it could happen here' and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to the safeguarding team.

Any staff or volunteers from outside our setting will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of the risks and know how to take action if they are concerned.

We have confirmed the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged as per Safeguarding Policy.

If necessary, the school will continue to follow the duty to refer to DBS any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, and to the Teacher Regulation Agency in line with paragraph 261 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 using the address [Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk).

### **New staff or volunteers**

New starters must have an induction before starting or on their first morning with the DSL or a deputy. They must read the school child protection policy, the behaviour policy, the whistleblowing policy and the code of conduct. The DSL or deputy will ensure new recruits know who to contact if worried about a child and ensure the new starters are familiar with the child protection procedure.

### **New children at the school**

When children join our schools from other settings during this challenging time, we will require confirmation from the SENCO/ DSL whether they have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This file must be provided securely **before** the child begins at one of the schools and a call made from our DSL or a deputy to the placing school's DSL to discuss how best to keep the child safe. Information provided must include contact details for any appointed social worker and where relevant for the Virtual School Head. Safeguarding information about children placed in our school will be recorded on our safeguarding system, will be securely copied to the placing school DSL and will be securely returned to the placing school on completion of the child's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the child.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment in respect of any new information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know about the information. This will be recorded on our safeguarding recording system.