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**Addendum to Child Protection Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19**

**Date: 30.3.20**

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 cover note/addendum to our existing school’s Child Protection Policy Template to ensure all staff, Governors and Parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time.

**Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies**

On Site: While our school site remains open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies remain as Patsy Petrie, Emma Gatenby and Holly Amos and they will continue to carry out the role due to their level of training and skill. However, due to these unprecedented circumstances they may not physically be on our school site every day and may be working from home. In this case, one of the following named individuals, who are members of the senior/middle leadership team, will be physically on site each day and will liaise directly with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies if any incidents of a child protection nature occur.

Mrs Clare Ward (Core level 3 trained)

Mrs S Turner

Mrs K Lee

Mr P Bennett (core level 3 trained)

Mrs K Dunlop

Should our school site be entirely closed then we will update our website and Child Protection Policy with our arrangements.

**Arrangements for Contact with Families**

School staff will make contact with all families on a weekly basis. If they are unable to make contact with the family by phone, a letter will be sent asking the family to return our call. Home visits will not be routinely carried out during this time. However, if we are unable to make contact with a family and have serious concerns about a child, a home visit will be made.

**Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children**

Where our school remain open, the Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are fully aware of their vulnerable children and those they are expecting into school each day. Should that child not arrive then school will make contact with the parent or carer immediately and if no response contact the named social worker or South Tees MACH. The school will check on all children who are allocated a social worker, but whose parents have chosen not to accept a place either through direct contact with the family or via the allocated social worker

School staff will contact vulnerable children and their families on a weekly basis. 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 allocated social worker or the South Tees Multi-Agency Children’s Hub (MACH) on 01642 130700

**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.

If there is not a member of the safeguarding team on site and the teacher in charge requires a member of the safeguarding team to contact a member of the family or professional, they will contact them in the order listed below:

1. Mrs P Petrie
2. Mrs E Gatenby
3. Miss H Amos

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day 9am-3.30pm only. Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving calls and messages outside of these times. In the event that children or families need support immediately please contact South Tees Multi-Agency Children’s Hub (MACH) on 01642 130700.

If you believe a child is in immediate danger, contact the Police on 101.

**Response to safeguarding or child protection concerns**

As always our school’s duty of care is to keep children safe and 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 school’s response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school’s Child Protection Policy.

DFE issued interim coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools colleges and other providers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>