

## Lancaster Steiner School Interim Safeguarding Arrangements during Covid-19 Pandemic

### Background

On 27<sup>th</sup> March the DfE published guidance to schools in fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities during the pandemic restrictions<sup>1</sup>.

The guidance recommends that an addendum be written in order to make explicit what steps are being taken during Covid-19, as some aspects of the standing Safeguarding Policy might not be applicable during the pandemic. The addendum will be reviewed as necessary, in line with government guidance.

Please see here below Covid-19 Addendum to School Safeguarding Policy, which has been written using guidance from the Schools Safeguarding Team at Lancashire County Council.

KEY AREA	CONTENT
Maintaining links with safeguarding partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school will check briefings from the DfE, Lancashire County Council and local Safeguarding Advisers in LCC. In addition, the DSL and Trustee with Responsibility for Safeguarding will continue to receive and read Andrew Hall weekly Safeguarding Briefing.</li> </ul>
Referrals to CSC and LADO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LADO Services are operating during the pandemic, using Skype as necessary and so any concerns about harm to children are subject to consultation with LADO as in normal operating.</li> <li>Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements for Blackburn, Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire (CSC) can be contacted on 0300 123 6720 (no hot-line services) and <a href="mailto:cypreferrals@lancashire.gov.uk">cypreferrals@lancashire.gov.uk</a></li> <li>The Schools Safeguarding Advice Line and MASH Education Officers are still available and will be used for advice about threshold and wider safeguarding concerns.</li> </ul>
Designated Safeguarding Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A qualified DSL is available to respond to need. All staff, parents and carers have been made aware of how to contact the DSL</li> <li>In the event of not being able to get in touch with the DSL, staff and parents/carers can seek further guidance from the Trustee for Responsibility for Safeguarding (in the first instance)</li> <li>In the event of neither DSL nor Trustee being available, staff can also contact the County Safeguarding advice line 01772 531196; and parents/carers can contact CSC on 0300 123 6720 or via email <a href="mailto:cypreferrals@lancashire.gov.uk">cypreferrals@lancashire.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>
Supporting potentially Vulnerable Children (not allocated to a social worker)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a small school staff are able to discuss each family situation weekly. Vulnerable children are identified if they or a family member has a SEND, (including health concerns) which could impact behaviour or family member's mental health. As we are aiming to have at least weekly contact with all families, contact will be made if a family has not been in touch. In the first instance contact is made by text or email to arrange a phonecall should staff have any concerns or feel support may be appropriate. Though discussion about the family situation, suggestions and signposting to further support can be made.</li> </ul>
Online Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information to staff has been given with regards to safe use of Zoom (this is the platform in use in our school for remote learning)</li> <li>Parents have been reminded of top ten tips to keep children safe online (see</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <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>

	<a href="https://swgfl.org.uk/online-safety/10-online-safety-tips/">https://swgfl.org.uk/online-safety/10-online-safety-tips/</a> )
Safer Recruitment & use of Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No recruitment of new volunteers will be taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic</li><li>• If recruitment of new members of staff needs to take place, we will act according to our Safer Recruitment and Vetting policy and following any Covid-19 guidance released by the government and other relevant agencies</li></ul>

Named person responsible for ensuring staff are aware of the above.

TRUSTEE FOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFEGUARDING: Ms Sara Nobili-Park

DATE: 9/05/2020