

SAFEGUARDING APPENDIX: Covid-19 arrangements from 1st June 2020

Aim:

During this time of unprecedented challenge for the nation schools have remained open to support the most vulnerable pupils as well as the children of key workers. This has meant that normal operating procedures have had to be reviewed and amended to ensure that staff, pupils and their families can be supported and remain safe.

Now that the government has relaxed lockdown procedures, and are in the process of reopening schools, further amendments to safeguarding procedures are required. This appendix to the trust wide Safeguarding and Child Protection policy provides an overview of how Cromer Academy is meeting the challenges of the current situation and ensuring that safeguarding remains a priority for pupils both in school and remaining at home.

In preparation for the phased reopening of the school Cromer Academy has formulated a detailed plan that outlines operational procedures and practices that have been put in place to keep staff and pupils safe.

This appendix should be read in conjunction with the trust wide safeguarding policy and actions not covered in this appendix should be actioned in accordance with the overarching guidance provided in this parent policy.

1, Continuity planning

Continuity planning for DSL coverage during the period of school closure has been undertaken to ensure that pupils will be supported in the event that the DSL, or their alternates, become infected and unable to work. The continuity structure for Cromer Academy is as follows;

	Name
DSL	Kirsty Harper
Backup 1	Michelle Melton
Backup 2	Rob King
Backup 3	Jonathan Fisher
Backup 4	Jake Bonham
Backup 5	Hayley Chambers

Backup 6	Carl Hensley
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At the point that schools start to reopen to more pupils Cromer Academy will ensure that there is a DSL trained member of staff on site each day. The rota for on-site DSL cover will be circulated to all staff prior to the extended reopening of the school. Where it is not possible to have a DSL onsite remote support will be put in place and all staff made aware of who they need to contact if they have a safeguarding issue.

To ensure that safeguarding is supported in all academies across the Inspiration Trust fortnightly safeguarding meetings between DSLs will take place. These will be undertaken using Google Meet to limit the need for unnecessary travel and support social distancing. In the event that the DSL is unable to participate in the meeting due to illness they will designate a replacement. Following each of the weekly meetings it is the responsibility of the DSL in each academy to cascade information to all alternate DSLs and staff as appropriate.

2. Vulnerable children.

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Those with an EHC plan were risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they needed to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs during the period of lockdown. In light of the plans to reopen schools, risk assessments for EHCP pupils will be reviewed to evaluate whether these pupils should return to school or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home but will need to be carefully monitored should this be the case.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and their alternate) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support and will actively engage with families where they feel that this is the case.

Cromer Academy 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.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will have the opportunity to attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. Cromer Academy will actively encourage the families of these pupils to take up places at school as they know that this is the best place for them to receive the help and support that they need. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Cromer Academy will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of their child contracting COVID19, Cromer Academy or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Cromer Academy will continue to encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend school via regular phone calls and ongoing liaison with Children's Services.

3. Attendance monitoring.

Local authorities and education settings are expected to follow the attendance guidance '**Recording attendance in the school attendance register during the coronavirus outbreak**' that has been issued by the DfE and was last updated in May 2020. As a result attendance procedures will be different from normal but will still form an important part of the safeguarding arrangements at every school.

Cromer Academy and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – Cromer Academy will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Cromer Academy 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.

To support the above, Cromer Academy will, when communicating with parents and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available. In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues a place that they have previously accessed, Cromer Academy will notify their social worker.

4. Reporting a concern.

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via CPOMS, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS account, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Principal and the Director of Inclusion for the trust. This will ensure that the concern is received and action taken promptly.

Staff will be reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. An updated safeguarding briefing will be given to all staff prior to pupils returning to school to reinforce this and other safeguarding messages.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the Principal. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Principal whilst they are away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Principal.

Concerns around the Principal should be directed to the Chief Operating Officer, Micon Metcalfe.

The Inspiration Trust will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

5. Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Cromer Academy, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

Prior to the reopening of schools for pupils in Reception, Year 1, Year 6, Year 10 or Year 12 staff will be provided with updated safeguarding training that highlights key issues that might have come to light during the period of lockdown. Staff will be provided with information, either verbally or in written format, that outlines signs and indicators of anxiety, depression, domestic violence and other issues that may become evident when pupils return as well as reminders about how report any issues that they become aware of.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

For movement within the Inspiration Trust, schools should seek assurance from the Head of HR that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training. Upon arrival, they will undertake a safeguarding briefing to confirm local safeguarding processes where they differ from the whole trust approach as set out in the main safeguarding policy.

6. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Cromer Academy will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

Where Cromer Academy are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process 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.

Cromer Academy will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

Cromer Academy will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective, that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Cromer Academy will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

7. Online safety in schools and colleges

Cromer Academy will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online monitoring and filtering system. Where pupils are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

8. Children and online safety away from school and college

From 1st June there will be more pupils in school but a large proportion of pupils will continue to access learning remotely online.

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 trust wide Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the Inspiration Trust code of conduct.

Cromer Academy will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things staff must consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- Staff must only use platforms provided and supported by the Inspiration Trust to communicate with pupils and host remote learning.
- No 1:1s, groups only
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and the background should be blurred.
- * If sharing screens with learners, staff must be mindful of what is open on their screen - nothing confidential or personal, only what is relevant should be open / shared.
- The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff should record the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held. * Staff must report anything that concerns them using the school's reporting system
CPOMS.

9. Supporting children who are accessing remote learning

Cromer Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded on CPOMS, as should a record of contacts that have made.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact or 'Virtual visits' undertaken via video conferencing software. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Cromer Academy and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Cromer Academy recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at Cromer Academy need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Cromer Academy will ensure that, where we are providing onsite care for children of critical workers, vulnerable children and children from the specific year groups that will be returning as the lockdown is eased, appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

10. Supporting children in school

Cromer Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils.

Cromer Academy will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Principal will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Cromer Academy 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.

Cromer Academy will ensure that, where we are providing onsite care for children of critical workers, vulnerable children and children from the specific year groups that will be returning as the lockdown is eased, appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

Where the Principal of Cromer Academy has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as absence of the Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – they will discuss them immediately with the trust.

11. Support from the Multi-Academy Trust

The Inspiration Trust (IT) Director of Inclusion will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively. This may include both group and individual 'supervision' sessions via video conferencing and visits to academies.