SAFEGUARDING POLICY-COVID 19

Alongside our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, the following definitions and arrangements applied as on 20th March 2020 we were told to apply Nursery Closure:

**Vulnerable children** include children who have a social worker with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

We will liaise with the Local Authority and with parents to decide whether a child with an EHCP needs to continue to be offered a place at Nursery to meet their needs, 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. We understand that children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Our manager and DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads) have the flexibility to offer a place to children who do not have a social worker but for whom some safeguarding needs have already been identified.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend the setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-today attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. We will follow the process set out in Merton Council flowchart until further notice.

To support the above, we will, when communicating with parents/carers of vulnerable children, confirm that emergency contact numbers kept on the children’s files are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

**Designated Safeguarding Leads**

To ensure A DSL is always present at the setting or is available on phone for staff to access advice and support about safeguarding,

**Reporting a concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they will continue to follow the process outlined in the Nursery Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

If a staff member cannot access our established reporting system for safeguarding from home, they will contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead who is available.

Any email containing confidential information will be sent using official nursey email addresses.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they will continue to follow the Merton Processes set out in the allegations flowchart of Merton Council displayed in the nursery. In the absence of the Manager, staff will follow the alternative leadership contact arrangements.

**Safeguarding Training and induction**

As DSL training is unlikely to be available during the current outbreak of Covid-19, D/DSL training will continue to meet statutory requirements, even if the refresher training and annual updates are not available within the required timescales. Our D/DSLs will keep up to date by reading government guidance and other relevant newsletters eg NSPCC as they are published.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, as appropriate.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter our school, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. If staff are deployed from another education or children’s workforce setting to our school, we will consider the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will follow Merton Council advice about safeguarding in relation to visiting staff/volunteers as it is published.

Upon arrival, at the school, visiting staff/volunteers working here on a temporary basis, are given a copy of our safeguarding/child protection policy, including confirmation of D/DSL arrangements.

**Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff**

When recruiting new staff, we will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for our school, including relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019).

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. We will follow this guidance  
[DBS checks during Covid-19 outbreak](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines)

We will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in in KCSIE and will follow Merton Council advice about safeguarding in relation to the SCR and visiting staff/volunteers as it is published and updated their website until further notice.

**Online safety during Home Learning**

We will continue to provide a safe online environment for staff and children. Teachers to upload work on Tapestry (see TAPESTRY Policy)

All parents to be always provided with managers email address to ensure contact

Staff to be very aware of the GDPR expectations re uploading work on Tapestry. Group emails MUST use bb/cc to ensure no other person can see email addresses of group recipients

SEN pupils – individual work to be provided for pupil by personal email, linked to IP targets and correct level

If possible, hard copies to be made and distributed as necessary

Teachers to assess emails daily (weekdays and working hours only)

All staff who interact with children, including online, will continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns will be dealt with as per our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and where appropriate referrals will still be made to children’s social care and as required, the police. Online teaching will follow the same principles as set out in our Staff Code of Conduct. We will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

**Supporting children in school**

The Manager/deputy will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate. We 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 to limit the risk of spread of Covid -19.