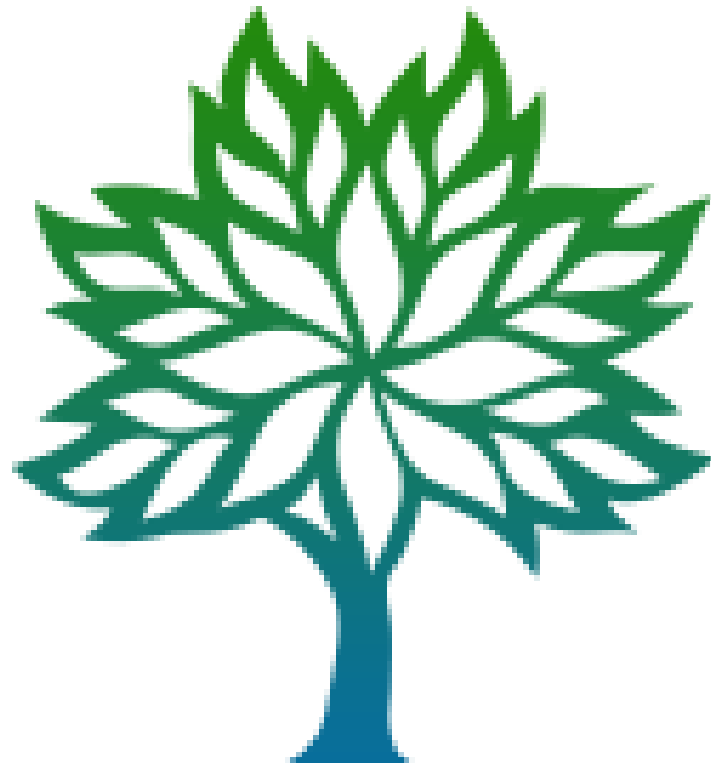


Annex 1

## **COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Darell Primary & Nursery School**



Policy owner: Paul Gilbert (DSL)

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Date shared with staff: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

## Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend. Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. This addendum to Darell Primary & Nursery School's Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

1. [Vulnerable children](#)
2. [Attendance monitoring](#)
3. [Designated safeguarding lead](#)
4. [Reporting a concern](#)
5. [Safeguarding training and induction](#)
6. [Safer recruitment and volunteers](#)
7. [Online safety in school](#)
8. [Online safety for children not in school](#)
9. [Supporting children not in school](#)
10. [Supporting children in school](#)
11. [Peer on peer abuse](#)

Role	Name
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Paul Gilbert
Deputy DSL	Emma Claridge
Headteacher	Joe Porter
Chair of Governors	Jane Spencer
Safeguarding Governor	Jenny Mikkelsen

### 1. [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 will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order 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. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

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 deputy) 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.

Darell Primary & Nursery School 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 (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be Paul Gilbert

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. 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 Darell Primary & Nursery School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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

## 2. Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. Darell Primary & Nursery School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – Darell Primary & Nursery School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Darell Primary & Nursery School will also follow up via a phone call with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend. Attendance statistics will be shared with the DfE and Local Authority in line with national reporting procedures.

To support the above, Darell Primary & Nursery School will, when communicating with parents/carers 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, Darell Primary & Nursery School will notify their social worker.

## 3. Designated Safeguarding Lead

Darell Primary & Nursery School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Paul Gilbert
- The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Emma Claridge

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case, a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home. Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

It is important that all school name staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). Each weekly rota will clearly show who the DSL is and whether they are on site or working from home.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings which are held remotely.

#### 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. If staff are on site, they should fill out an expression of concern form. This can be shared with the DSL or Deputy DSL if they are on site. If they are not, it can be shared with another Senior Leader or the DSL/Deputy DSL can be contacted whilst working at home. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report this concern directly to the headteacher either in person or by phone call/email if the headteacher is not on site. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors, Jane Spencer

#### 5. Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat from 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 Darell Primary & Nursery 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 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

#### 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, Darell Primary & Nursery School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for our 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 Darell 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. Darell Primary & Nursery

School 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 in paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

Darell Primary & Nursery School 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](mailto: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, Darell Primary & Nursery School 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 school

Darell Primary & Nursery School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place. Please refer to the school's online safety policy.

#### 8. Children and online safety away from school

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

Darell Primary & Nursery School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some key issues to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- 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
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Videos can be uploaded directly if you download the Google Classrooms app to the device you are recording from. Please take great care to ensure that any content uploaded from your device is checked carefully.

#### 9. Supporting children not in school

Darell Primary & Nursery School 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. A shared and RAG rated communication plan has been created and all communication is recorded on this list.

The communication plan includes: remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded. Darell Primary & Nursery School

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.

Darell Primary & Nursery School 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 Darell Primary & Nursery School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

#### 10. Supporting children in school

Darell Primary & Nursery School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. We will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety. Darell Primary & Nursery School 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 COVID-19.

Where Darell Primary & Nursery School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – on the feasibility of the school being able to be operational, we will discuss them immediately with the local authority.

#### 11. Peer on Peer Abuse

Darell Primary & Nursery School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within the school's Child Protection Policy. The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions must be recorded using an expression of concern form and appropriate referrals made.