

Dauntsey's School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Annex to Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy – version 2.0

Safeguarding and Child Protection during the COVID-19 measures, January 2021

This Annex to our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy sets out details of our safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

1. Context
2. Version control and dissemination
3. Safeguarding priority
4. Current school position
5. Safeguarding partners' advice
6. Roles and responsibilities
7. Vulnerable children
8. Attendance
9. Increased vulnerability or risk
10. Reporting concerns about children and staff
11. Safeguarding training and induction
12. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff
13. Peer on peer abuse
14. Online safety

1. Context

The Government confirmed on December 30th, 2020, that secondary schools are required to have a staggered start to the on-site provision of education for the beginning of the new term, January 2021. All teaching will take place remotely for the first week of term. All international pupils who have fixed travel plans or are currently staying with UK guardians may return to school from 4th January and be accommodated in their Boarding House.

The Government guidance also indicates that, from the start of term, we can look after vulnerable children and the children of designated key workers on site should this be required. This applies to both day and boarding pupils in these categories.

In the week beginning Monday January 11th there will be 6 boarders accommodated and attending remote lessons on site.

In the week beginning Monday January 11th there will be 5 day pupils attending remote lessons on site who meet the definition of vulnerable/ critical worker children.

2. Version control and dissemination

This is version 2.0 of this annex. It is reviewed by our DSL on a regular basis as circumstances continue to evolve or following updated Department for Education advice or guidance. It is available on the school website and has been made available to staff.

We will ensure that on any given day all staff and volunteers in attendance will be aware of who the DSL and deputy DSL are, and how staff and volunteers can speak to them.

3. Safeguarding priority

During these challenging times the safeguarding of all children at our school – whether they are currently at home or in attendance – continues to be our priority. The following fundamental safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children continue to come first
- if anyone at our school has a safeguarding concern, they will act immediately
- a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL will always be available
- no unsuitable people will be allowed to gain access to children
- children continue to be protected when they are online.

4. Current school position

A small number of boarders and day pupils are currently attending on site. Boarders are accommodated in Mercers House. Boarders in Years 1 -5 and all day pupils are attending their remote lessons in the library. No day pupils are attending on Saturdays, when the all boarders attend their lessons from Mercers.

5. Safeguarding partners' advice

We will continue to work closely with the Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (WSVPP), and we will ensure that this annex is consistent with their advice. This will include expectations for supporting children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need.

6. Roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for safeguarding in our school remain in line with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Key Contacts:

| Designated Safeguarding Lead | Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads |
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| Ann Jackson – a.jackson@dauntseys.org 07724537630 | Eleni Conidaris – e.conidaris@dauntseys.org 07980730622 Greg James – g.james@dauntseys.org |

Currently either the DSL or a DDSL will be available on site during the school day. If circumstances arise that mean that our DSL or DDSLs cannot be on site or available by phone, we will ensure a member of SMT takes responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

7. 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. There are currently no Dauntsey's pupils who fit this category. However, this situation may change, and there are Dauntsey's pupils whom we consider vulnerable for other reasons, including Mental Health issues.

The DSL and DDSLs know who our most vulnerable children are, and they have the flexibility to offer a place to those in need of additional support.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive additional pastoral support in school, a communication plan will be in place to support that child.

Where required, we will continue to work with children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after, and previously looked-after children (LAC and PLAC). We will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend school, including remotely if needed.

8. Attendance

Where a child is expected but does not arrive at school, we will follow our attendance procedure and attempt to contact the family. If contact cannot be made, we will attempt to contact the parents through various methods, such as telephone, FaceTime, Skype or by contacting a relative in the first instance. If contact cannot be made or if the DSL or a DDSL deems it necessary, we will undertake a home visit or ask an appropriate agency to do so.

9. Increased vulnerability or risk

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Staff will be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Where we are providing for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Our staff and volunteers will be aware of the mental health of children and their [parents and carers](#) and will contact the DSL or DDSLs if they have any concerns.

10. Reporting concerns about children or staff

As in normal circumstances, all staff and volunteers **MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY** if they have any safeguarding concerns.

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Ann Jackson and Eleni Conidaris are available via mobile phone as well as via email.

The varied arrangements in place as a result of the COVID-19 measures do not reduce the risks that children may face from staff or volunteers. As such, it remains extremely important that any allegations of abuse made against staff or volunteers attending our school are dealt with thoroughly and efficiently. If staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the School, they must report that concern to the Head Master immediately. If the allegation or concern is about the Head Master, they should contact the Chairman of Governors, Mrs Lucy Walsh-Waring.

11. Staff training and induction

All current school staff have received safeguarding training and have read Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). When new staff are recruited or volunteers join us, they will receive a safeguarding induction.

12. 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, we will continue to follow our Safer Recruitment policy.

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

For volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to engage in regulated activity.

It is essential from a safeguarding perspective that we are aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers are on our school site and that the appropriate checks have been carried out on those individuals. We will continue to maintain our single central record (SCR) during these measures to ensure we have this awareness.

13. Peer on peer abuse

We recognise that children can abuse their peers and our staff are clear about the school's policy and procedures regarding peer on peer abuse. All peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. We also recognise that abuse can still occur during a school closure or partial closure.

Our staff remain vigilant to the [signs of peer-on-peer abuse which](#) will continue to be dealt with as a safeguarding concern and recorded as such. Any pupil who may have been victimised and/or displayed harmful behaviours along with any other child affected by peer on peer abuse will be supported through the Pastoral system and the support will be regularly reviewed.

14. Online safety

It is likely that children will be using the internet and engaging with social media far more during this time. Our staff are aware of the signs of cyberbullying and other online risks and our filtering and monitoring software remains in use during this time in order to safeguard and support children.

Parents (October 2020) and Staff (January 2021) have been resent a copy of the 'Remote Learning Policy' which includes an 'Online Home Learning Responsible Use Agreement'.

Staff who interact with children online will continue to look out for signs that a child may be at risk. If a staff member is concerned about a child, that particular staff member will follow the approach set out in this annex and report that concern to the DSL or a DDSL.

Ann Jackson
Deputy Head Pastoral and DSL
Reviewed: January 10th, 2021