



# **COVID-19 School Closure and Return to School Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Holyrood Academy**

**Holyrood Academy**

**30<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Updated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

## Context

During periods of 'lockdown' 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 and for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable. At these times, there will always be the DSL or a DDSL on site to support staff and students.

Role	Name	Email address
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr R. Crocker	<a href="mailto:Rcrocker@educ.somerset.gov.uk">Rcrocker@educ.somerset.gov.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr G Ireland	<a href="mailto:Gireland@educ.somerset.gov.uk">Gireland@educ.somerset.gov.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Ms K Lemon	<a href="mailto:KLemon@educ.somerset.gov.uk">KLemon@educ.somerset.gov.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs L. Haynes	<a href="mailto:Lhaynes@educ.somerset.gov.uk">Lhaynes@educ.somerset.gov.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs K. Down	<a href="mailto:Kdown1@educ.somerset.gov.uk">Kdown1@educ.somerset.gov.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs K. Akerman	<a href="mailto:Kakerman@educ.somerset.gov.uk">Kakerman@educ.somerset.gov.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs. C. Markham	<a href="mailto:cmarkham@educ.somerset.gov.uk">cmarkham@educ.somerset.gov.uk</a>
Designated Governor for Safeguarding	Mrs. K. Yamada	<a href="mailto:Kyamada@educ.somerset.gov.uk">Kyamada@educ.somerset.gov.uk</a>
Chair of Governors	Mr D. Pugh	<a href="mailto:DMPugh@educ.somerset.gov.uk">DMPugh@educ.somerset.gov.uk</a>
Key Worker contact	Mrs T. Coles	<a href="mailto:keyworkers@gapps.holyroodacademy.com">keyworkers@gapps.holyroodacademy.com</a>

This addendum of the Holyrood Academy Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

## 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 plans (EHCP).

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan, a Child in Need plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority.

Those with an EHCP plan will be risk-assessed with the school 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 or agencies visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHCP plans can safely remain at home.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead and deputies know who our most vulnerable children are. In addition, they have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Holyrood 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 working with looked-after and previously looked-after children.

There is provision for vulnerable children who have a social worker to 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 due to health risks, a system of welfare checks will be set up.

Holyrood Academy will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely.

### **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 during this period.

Holyrood Academy will make welfare calls and /or home visits to all students who have an EHCP or who for the definition of vulnerable. Key staff will also make welfare checks on students who we consider to be potentially vulnerable.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Holyrood Academy will notify their social worker.

### **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 My Concern which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their My Concern from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and the relevant Year Leader. This will ensure that the concern is received.

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 the concern to the Headteacher. 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, David Pugh.

### **Safeguarding Training and induction**

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). 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 Holyrood academy, they will continue to be provided with an online safeguarding induction.

### **Online Safety in Schools and Colleges**

Holyrood Academy 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.

### **Children and Online Safety Away from School and College**

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.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the UAT MAT code of conduct.

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

- Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons:
- No webcams to be used.
- Language must be professional and appropriate.
- Staff must only use platforms provided and approved by Holyrood Academy to communicate with students.
- No 1:1s, groups only.
- Staff need to report any inappropriate or concerning online conversations on My Concern.

### **Supporting Children Not In School**

Holyrood 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 welfare check is in place for that child or young person. Details of this welfare check must be recorded on My Concern.

Other communications can include; email contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be recorded on My Concern.

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

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

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

### **Supporting Children in School**

Holyrood Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Holyrood Academy 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 student ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Holyrood Academy will refer to the Government guidance for education 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.

Holyrood Academy will ensure that where we care for children of key workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

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

## **Peer on Peer Abuse**

Holyrood Academy 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 of the Child Protection Policy.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on My Concern and appropriate actions taken.

## **COVID 19 - Return to School Arrangements**

On return to school all staff need to be vigilant to the likelihood that new safeguarding concerns from/ about individual children will arise as they see them in person. In these cases:

- staff need to follow all usual procedures.
- staff must make it clear that they will need to share the information with the DSL or DDSLs.
- staff need to allow students to explain the concern in their own words and without prompting. If appropriate, staff should ask if they can write down what the student is saying or write the information down soon after.
- staff need to refer these concerns as soon as feasibly possible on My Concern. If staff feel that the concern is urgent they must contact a member of the safeguarding team immediately or so soon as possible.

At this time Holyrood Academy the DSL and DDSLs will monitor all incoming cases and assign as necessary, to ensure all safeguarding information remains accurate.

Holyrood Academy will contact the parents of all students asking for any new relevant safeguarding, health and wellbeing information to share with the Academy. This is to ensure that our safeguarding records are as accurate and effective as possible.

In instances where a child does not attend school when 'expected' to, Holyrood Academy will carry out a range of checks including phone calls and home visits to ascertain why the students has not attended. In instances where we feel that there are no barriers to attendance (such as health or wellbeing) we will meet with parents and students in school to formulate a plan for return.

Safeguarding concerns will be shared with staff through the staff bulletin, which can only be accessed securely. Some confidential information will only be shared with relevant stakeholder staff where it is in the best interest of the child.

Holyrood Academy will continue to alert parents to the risks of children being unmonitored while on line. Online safety has already been a regular theme of PHSE during this COVID period and will continue to take a high profile in our ICT and PHSE curriculum during this time and after it.

The DSL and DDSLs will continue to work with all partner agencies to safeguard our children.

## **Support from the Multi-Academy Trust**

The UAT MAT Central Safeguarding Team will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively.