

Addendum to Banbridge Academy Safeguarding Policy Covid-19 Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

1. CONTEXT

From 4 January 2021 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of key workers and children who are vulnerable.

The current national health concerns relating to Covid-19 creates uncertainty in the lives of children and young people. Daily routines, family life, friendship groups and the safe space that schools provide have been disrupted. For many children, the need to spend most of their day at home will bring an additional challenge, and for some this will be an additional safeguarding risk factor. It is important that the adults responsible for safeguarding children are sensitive to their physical, social and emotional needs in these most unusual circumstances. It is critically important that children who are or may be at risk are identified so that that a proportionate, compassionate and sensitive response can be taken.

2. PROCEDURES

Staff will continue to follow the procedures outlined in our school's Safeguarding Policy which is available on our school website.

In addition, the following arrangements have been put in place to support families and monitor pupil safety:

- The school email address and main school phone number have been made available to all parents. Parents are informed that the Designated Teacher is available via these routes.
- Teachers provide online learning via google classroom with strict procedures in place to minimise risk.
- The website provides parents with a range of links to additional support and guidance.
- We would remind everyone to stay safe when using online resources and to report any concerns to a member of the safeguarding team.
- The School Counsellor (ICSS) remains available for phone consultation and parents are made aware of this via letter.
- In line with the information previously provided to schools by the EA CPSS, teachers may make phone calls to parents. These will be pastoral in nature and a record will be kept of any issues reported by parents. Any concerns around pupil well-being will be shared without delay with a member of the Safeguarding team.

- If a member of staff is using their personal telephone their number will be withheld to ensure the protection of private information of staff

3. ONLINE SAFETY

In order to ensure the safety of all involved the following guidance should be followed if staff and pupils are engaging in online teaching/communication using video conferencing or platforms recommended by and available via C2K.

- The teacher arranges the session and password and shares this only with pupils.
- Pupils must agree not to share the password with anyone else.
- Pupils must be ready to start the Meet/lesson at the beginning of their timetabled period
- Pupils must be seated at a desk or table and dressed appropriately
- Pupils should be visible on screen at the start of the lesson with their device on mute, but be ready to unmute themselves in order to answer questions from the teacher or to participate in classroom discussion when asked to do so
- Pupils should not use another device or App that may distract them from the lesson and should never record the lesson without the permission of the teacher
- Remember all normal rules of classroom behaviour still apply
- A disclosure or concern over any online forum will be followed up as it would be in school.

If there is a breach to any of these procedures e.g. pupil gives the password to someone else who joins the group, the teacher should immediately terminate the session and advise the Principal.

4. HOW A PARENT CAN RAISE AN ISSUE OR EXPRESS A CONCERN

We would welcome parents asking for advice and help if they have concerns about their child's well-being or safety. Asking for help is a protective factor and parental concerns and requests for help will always be taken seriously.

Any member of staff will listen carefully to parental concerns and ensure that the request for help, if necessary, is brought to the attention of a member of the safeguarding team. In this case a decision can be made as to how best to provide help.

5. IF SCHOOL IS OPEN DURING COVID-19 CLOSURES

School is open for vulnerable pupils and key workers' children. We will follow current Department of Education and Department of Health guidelines regarding social distancing, hygiene and personal protective equipment to ensure the safety of both pupils and staff.

6. HOW A CHILD CAN RAISE A CONCERN

We know that while many children will be enjoying their time at home and remain almost unaffected by this unusual situation, there will be others who feel scared, lonely and even

those who miss school. Our safeguarding responsibility to all our children continues and we will seek to maintain contact with our children and young people as well as signpost them to other agencies.

We will use the following means to connect with our children and young people:

- All pupils will be able to contact teachers individually via google classroom to raise concerns
- Response to emails will be via the c2k email address only
- Parents and pupils will be updated via the parent and pupil apps

7. SOME USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS: –

Banbridge Academy School Office 40623220

School Email Address info@banbridgeacademy.banbridge.ni.sch.uk

- <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/coronavirus>
- <https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline/report-harmful-content>
- <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

8. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Safeguarding team will review and amend these arrangements regularly during the period of Covid-19 school closure in line with Departmental guidance and advice.

Jan 2021