

# COVID-19 - Safeguarding and Child Protection addendum Byrchall High School

Policy written by: Mrs Anita Hudson

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## 1. Context

From 20<sup>th</sup> 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 were asked to provide care for a limited number of children who are vulnerable such as those with an EHCP are those who had a social worker.

Schools were then asked to start some face to face to contact with groups of year 10 in school. From September 2020 all children are expected to attend school all of the time.

This addendum of our Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the current situation

## 2. Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact details
DSL	Anita Hudson	<a href="mailto:ahudson@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk">ahudson@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk</a> 07983 400876
DDSL	Kirsty Macey	<a href="mailto:kmacey@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk">kmacey@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk</a>
Headteacher	Alan Birchall	<a href="mailto:abirchall@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk">abirchall@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk</a>
Safeguarding Governor	Joanne Shaw	<a href="mailto:shawj@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk">shawj@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk</a>
Chair of Governors	Tracey Hughes	<a href="mailto:cthughes@blueyonder.co.uk">cthughes@blueyonder.co.uk</a>

Byrchall High 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: Mrs Anita Hudson

All children, including those who are vulnerable children are expected to return where it is safe to do so. To manage this risk assessments and personalised plans will be completed to ensure that there is appropriate provision for each individual child. These cases will be discussed with social workers and carers especially if there are concerns about non-attendance.

## **Attendance monitoring**

Registers will be taken in school of all children who are attending each day, using the codes specified by the DfE. First day absence reporting will be in place. Attendance of any child who should be in school will be followed up by the pastoral team and social worker if appropriate following CME procedures if necessary.

## **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 CPOMS, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home, they should email the DSL and DDSL This will ensure that the concern is received. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. This relates to children in school and those working remotely. It is important to remember that as we start to see the children in school new concerns may arise – as always it is crucial that staff always share those concerns.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should contact the Headteacher or Mrs Anita Hudson (DSL) who will contact the Headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors:  
Tracey Hughes

## **Safeguarding Training and induction**

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of 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 will have the new version of KCSIE part one in September. All staff are also expected to complete the some COVID 19 mental health training available via the NHS to help them identify and support children who may present with mental health problems on return to school.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter school name, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

## **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, school name will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (KCSIE).

Byrchall High 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 at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

school name 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, school name will continue to keep the single central record (SCR).

### **Online safety in schools and colleges**

Byrchall High School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system when in school and 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.

In the event of a school or partial school closure any Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the school code of conduct.

Below are some things 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; and the background should be blurred.
- The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms provided by School to communicate with pupils

## **Supporting children not in school in the event of a school or partial school closure**

Byrchall High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

The DSL will identify children who have social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school and a robust communication plan will be in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded on CPOMS, as should a record of contact have made.

For most children their form tutor and other teaching staff will be the main point of contact. It is expected that tutors will communicate with their forms at least once a week (about work and well-being) and HOY will ensure that this is happening and send year messages in addition to that. If as a result of that contact, there are any concerns, these should be shared on CPOMS.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages. We recognise 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 in school need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work when they are at home and again share any concerns on CPOMS.

## **Supporting children in school**

Byrchall High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students and 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 safe and 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 COVID19.

There will be non-teaching pastoral staff and teaching assistants in each POD to support children who have needs – it will need to be remembered that as there has been a period of time out of school the level of need may be high and mental health concerns in particular may be prevalent. As a result of this all staff have been expected to complete some post COVID mental health training via the NHS.