

*Part of the Slough and East Berkshire CofE Multi Academy  
Trust*

## **Lynch Hill School Primary Academy**

### **Safeguarding and Child Protection – Covid19 Arrangements**

**‘Learning Together’**  
**We Aspire Achieve Respect;**  
**We Aim High, Work Hard, Care Deeply**



Member of Staff Responsible	Mrs L. Tomlinson, Mrs J Maule
Position	Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead
Dated	September 2020
Date of next review	September 2021

## COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Lynch Hill School Primary Academy

### 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 of the Lynch Hill School Primary Academy Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements

### Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Jenny Maule	01753524170 07799492764	j.maule@lhspa.org.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Lindsey Tomlinson Lisa Bunce	01753524170	l.tomlinson@lhspa.org.uk l.bunce@lhspa.org.uk
Headteacher	Lindsey Tomlinson	01753524170	l.tomlinson@lhspa.org.uk
Chair of Governors and Safeguarding Governor	Denise Fletcher		d.fletcher@lhspa.org.uk

As of Thursday 3rd September, the school has reopened to all pupils. The arrangements detailed below describe the variance of our usual arrangements due the continuing presence of COVID-19.

### 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 were risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, which helped decide whether they needed to continue to be offered a school in order to meet their needs, or whether they were able to safely have their needs met at home.

Lynch Hill School Primary Academy continued to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This included 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 was: Chloe O'Connor/Lindsey Tomlinson. Jenny Maule has now taken the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead as of September 2020.

Many vulnerable children who have a social worker attended the education setting.

### **All children returning to school**

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Lynch Hill School Primary Academy or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England. There is the expectation that all children will return to school unless they are deemed extremely critically vulnerable.

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Lynch Hill School Primary Academy school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Jenny Maule

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Lindsey Tomlinson and Lisa Bunce.

As we have returned to school, the trained DSL (or deputy) are available on site.

### **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 case of a 'bubble' closure due to confirmed case of COVID-19 within that bubble.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Headteacher and the Trust Safeguarding Manager. 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 use a yellow form to report the concern to the headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Denise Fletcher

The Multi-Academy Trust will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

## **Safeguarding Training and induction**

All 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.

In the case of a number of staff being affected by COVID-19 and self-isolation, staff from another educational setting may be deployed to our school. 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

For movement within the Trust, schools should seek assurance from the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) HR Manager that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

## **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, Lynch Hill School Primary Academy 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). 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 Lynch Hill School Primary Academy 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.

Lynch Hill School Primary Academy 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.

Lynch Hill School Primary Academy 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, Lynch Hill School Primary Academy will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

### **Online safety in schools**

Lynch Hill School Primary 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**

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 MAT code of conduct.

Lynch Hill School Primary Academy will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

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 Stowe Valley MAT to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

### **Supporting children not in school**

Lynch Hill School Primary Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where a child is unable to attend school (for those deemed extremely critically vulnerable) Lynch Hill will provide the students with access to the work that is being taught in school. This will be via DB Primary.

### **Supporting children in school**

Lynch Hill School Primary Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Lynch Hill School Primary Academy will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.

Lynch Hill School Primary Academy 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.

### **Peer-on-Peer Abuse**

Lynch Hill School Primary Academy recognises that during a 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.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi- agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

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

The Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) Central Safeguarding Team will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively. This includes, remotely accessing Child Protection files for the purpose of quality assurance, support, guidance and direction.

The MAT will also provide regular group and individual supervision sessions. This may take the form of an online meeting.