



DAUNTSEY'S SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Annex to Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy - version 11.0

Safeguarding and Child Protection during the COVID-19 measures

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

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1. Context and current school position

School is currently fully open. Pupils who have tested positive for Covid or who are awaiting a PCR test, isolate at home if they are a day pupil, and either at home or in the Medical Centre if they are a boarder. Pupils who are isolating can attend lessons online via Teams.

2. Version control and dissemination

This is version 11.0 of this annex. It is reviewed regularly by our DSL 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. 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.

5. 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 Ann Jackson a.jackson@dauntseys.org 07724 537630	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Eleni Conidaris e.conidaris@dauntseys.org 07980 730622
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If circumstances arise that mean that our DSL or DDSL cannot be on site or available by phone, we will ensure that a member of SMT takes responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

6. 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 DDSL know who our most vulnerable children are, and are aware if those pupils are isolating at home.

7. 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, the DSL or deputy DSL 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 deputy DSL deems it necessary, we will undertake a home visit or ask an appropriate agency to do so.

8. 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. Our staff and volunteers will be aware of the mental health of children and their parents and carers and will contact the DSL or DDSL if they have any concerns.

9. 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 or 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.

10. Staff training and induction

All current school staff have received safeguarding training and have read Part One, Part Five and Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021). When new staff are recruited or volunteers join us, they will receive a safeguarding induction.

11. 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.

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.

12. 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.

13. 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. 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 DDSL.

Ann Jackson
Deputy Head Pastoral and DSL

Reviewed: 10 December 2021