

AMENDED - SECOND AMENDMENT

**COVID-19 arrangements for safeguarding and
child protection at LVS Oxford school**

School name: LVS Oxford

Policy owner: Louisa Allison-Bergin

Date: 20th May 2020

Date shared with governors and trustees:

Date shared with staff:

This is also in line with DFE guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

1. Context

From the week commencing 1 June, the government has stated that it expects schools to be able to welcome back more children to school. The government has updated its safeguarding guidance in light of this and this is valid until the 31st May.

This amendment is written to align with the first amendment and the schools safeguarding policy.

LVS Oxford will continue to have regard for Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) statutory safeguarding guidance.

As more children return, several important safeguarding principles will remain the same at LVS Oxford:

- a. The best interests of children must always continue to come first.
- b. If anyone in the school has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act and act immediately.
- c. A DSL will always be available.
- d. LVS Oxford will continue to follow safer recruitment protocol as it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children.
- e. LVS Oxford will continue to protect children when they are online.
- f. LVS Oxford will continue, as far as is reasonably possible, take a whole institution approach to safeguarding.
- g. LVS Oxford will ensure risk assessments (as set out in action or education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June) and related Health and Safety risk assessments are appropriately linked into the school's approach to safeguarding.
- h. LVS Oxford has an effective safeguarding policy in place reflecting business as usual but with more children returning to school it is important that staff are aware of the school process because of the following factors;
 - Staff may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they see them in person following school closure.
 - LVS Oxford staff need to be clear about what they should do if they have any concerns about a child, including new concerns where children are returning.
 - LVS Oxford staff must be aware of the continued importance of all staff acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns, including new concerns where children are returning.
 - LVS Oxford staff must be aware of the importance of ensuring relevant safeguarding and welfare information held on all children (including returning children) remains accurate.
 - LVS Oxford (led by the DSLs) will do all they reasonably can to ask parents and carers to advise them of any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that they should be aware of before a child returns.
 - Peer on peer abuse – staff must continue to follow the processes set out in the safeguarding policy on how to manage incidents of peer on peer abuse both at home online and in school
 - LVS Oxford staff must be clear of what staff should do if they have concerns about a staff member who may pose a safeguarding risk to children.
 - LVS Oxford must continue to follow school safeguarding processes to keep children not physically attending the school or college safe, especially online and follow the systems in place to raise these concerns.
 - LVS Oxford staff will be aware of the continued importance for school staff to work with and support children's social workers and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners.

LVS Oxford staff will continue to be made aware of the policy amendments and are kept up to date as they are revised.

Designated safeguarding leads (DSLs)

As more children return to school, LVS Oxford will have a trained DSL on site each day and staff will be notified who this is. However, it is recognised that in exceptional circumstances this may not always be possible and in these circumstances;

- a trained DSL will be available to be contacted via phone or on teams

The DSLs will provide support to staff to ensure that contact is maintained with children (and their families) who are not yet returning to school. Where possible staff should try and speak directly to children to help identify any concerns. Where staff use personal phones to make calls, they should withhold their personal number.

DSL's at LVS Oxford will continue to meet weekly via teams to discuss concerns.

New staff

All new staff will continue to have a safeguarding induction, as per school policy.

Attendance

Vulnerable children attendance is expected, where it is appropriate for them (that is, where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household, and/or following a risk assessment for children with an EHC plan), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending. Vulnerable children – regardless of year group – that have not been attending in the recent period are expected to return to nursery, early years, school or college provision where this would now be appropriate for them to do so. We expect educational providers and other relevant partners to work with and support the relevant families and pupils to return to school, where attendance is appropriate. A brief summary of attendance expectations across the different groups of vulnerable children is as follows:

- for vulnerable children who have a social worker, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically
- for vulnerable children who have an education health and care (EHC) plan, attendance is expected where it is determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
- for vulnerable children who are deemed otherwise vulnerable, at the schools discretion, attendance are expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable

Parents and carers will not be penalised if their child does not attend educational provision.

Mental health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of children and their parents. As more children return to school from the 1st June LVS Oxford will ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

LVS Oxford has shared the DFE guidance on [mental health and behaviour in schools](#) with parents and staff and will use it to help identify children who might need additional support, and to put this support in place. The guidance sets out how mental health issues can bring about changes in a child's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, all of which could be an indication of an underlying problem. This can include for example being fearful or withdrawn; aggressive or oppositional; or excessive clinginess.

Support for pupils and students in the current circumstances can include existing provision in the school (although this may be delivered in different ways, for example over the phone for those children still not attending provision) or from specialist staff or support services.

Teachers should be aware of the impact the current circumstances can have on the mental health of those students (and their parents) who are continuing to work from home, including when setting expectations of children's work.

Online safety in schools and colleges

LVS Oxford will, as more children return to school, continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children when they are online on the school or college's IT systems.

Children and online safety away from school and college

LVS Oxford will continue to do what we reasonably can to keep all children safe online at home. Whilst more children return to school, others will continue to stay at home and will be continuing to engage with their school online.

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 Safeguarding policy and where appropriate referrals should continue to be made to children's social care and as required the police.

All staff will be sent this additional policy to read and to will sign to say they have read and understood the content.

If staff are working from home they will be asked to email confirming the above.