



**WANSTEAD HIGH
SCHOOL**

Updated February 2021

**COVID-19 amendments to the Child
Protection Policy Annex**

This interim guidance has been developed as a response to Government's guidance, however, please be aware this could be subject to change as legislation develops. Please make sure you have the latest version of this document. There have been significant changes within our setting in response to the outbreak of Covid19. Many young people are now at home and staffing is likely to be significantly affected through illness and self-isolation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

Despite the changes, the school's Child Protection Policy is *fundamentally* the same: children and young people always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the DSL in line with our established safeguarding procedure.

This annex sets out some of the adjustments we are making in line with the changed arrangements in the school and following advice from government and local agencies.

Any updates from the 3 safeguarding partners including information on changes in arrangements for CP Conferences and Looked After Reviews can be found here:

<https://www.redbridgescp.org.uk/>

Reporting arrangements

The school arrangements continue in line with our child protection policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Jason Gharu

Contact: childprotection@wansteadhigh.co.uk

The Deputy DSL is: Donna Cini

Contact: childprotection@wansteadhigh.co.uk

The school's approach ensures the DSL or a deputy is always contactable while the school is open. In the unusual circumstance this is not possible the DSL or Deputy DSL will be contactable and the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team will email all staff by 8am to advise they are acting in an on-site safeguarding role together with contact details for the DSL or Deputy DSL.

Staff will continue to follow the Child Protection procedure and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any child, whether in school or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

There has been a slight reduction to MASH referrals during lockdown so we anticipate that as children return we may see an increase in MASH referrals. Children's services may be affected by an increased demand for services. Please discuss any referrals you are unsure of with the MASH team/Safeguarding lead before sending to ensure that urgent referrals are dealt with promptly. Please ensure you have checked the thresholds document:

<https://www.redbridgescp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Redbridge-LSCB-Multi-Agency-Thresholds-Document-September-2018-Final.pdf>

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Helen Curtis	020 8708 5350
Child protection assessment teams – for reporting concerns	Redbridge CPAT	020 8708 3885
	Waltham Forest CPAT	020 8496 2310
	Newham CPAT	020 3373 4600
Barkingside Children and Families	BCF	020 8708 7477
Safer Schools Team	PC Donna Bird	020 8345 3429
Prevent	Faye Hussain	020 8708 5971 020 8708 3098
Emotional Well Being and Mental Health Service (EWMHS) <i>formerly CAMHS</i>	Duty Team	0300 555 1182 or 0300 300 1618
Waltham Forest CAMHS	Duty Team	0300 555 1247

If you have concerns about a child's welfare or suspect that a child is being neglected or abused, please telephone Redbridge Council on:

020 8708 3885 from 9.00am to 5.00pm

020 8708 5897 (after 5.00pm and weekends)

Alternatively, you may complete and submit a LBR Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF) Template to CPAT.referrals@redbridge.gov.uk.

For immediate help ring the police on 999.

Should a child in the school's view be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond, the school will immediately follow the safeguarding children partnership escalation procedure, available here:

Redbridge

<https://www.redbridgescp.org.uk/professionals/what-should-you-do-when-there-is-a-professional-disagreement-about-a-child/>

Identifying vulnerability

We have undertaken a scoping exercise to identify the most 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 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 should be risk-assessed by their school or college in consultation with the local authority (LA) and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home

For students in these groups who have to remain at home we have put in place specific arrangements in respect of the following groups:

Looked After Children

Designated Safeguarding Leads remain in contact with Looked after students and their families. DSL's carry out a telephone welfare check once a week which covers:

- Their emotional well-being
- Any issues with accessing the schools home learning provision
- Any matters arising

Alongside this DSL's remain in contact with allocated social workers and all LAC Reviews and PEP (Personal Education Plan) meetings are taking place virtually and within normal timescales.

Previously Looked After Children

Students previously known to social care will receive a telephone welfare check once a week by the Designated Safeguarding Leads. As above the telephone welfare check once a week will cover:

- Their emotional well-being
- Any issues with accessing the schools home learning provision
- Any matters arising

Children subject to a child protection plan

Designated Safeguarding Leads remain in contact with children and their families who are subject to a Child Protection Plan. DSL's carry out a telephone welfare check twice a week which covers:

- Their emotional well-being
- Any issues with accessing the schools home learning provision
- Any matters arising

Alongside this DSL's remain in contact with allocated social workers and email updates of welfare check conversations to all members of the Core Group. All Core Group Meetings and Child Protection Conferences – initial and review - are taking place virtually and within normal timescales. Designated Safeguarding Leads continue to submit reports for Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences as per normal procedures.

Children subject to a child in need plan

Designated Safeguarding Leads remain in contact with children and their families who are subject to a Child in Need Plan. DSL's carry out a telephone welfare check twice a week which covers:

- Their emotional well-being
- Any issues with accessing the schools home learning provision
- Any matters arising

Alongside this DSL's remain in contact with allocated social workers and email updates of welfare check conversations to the network around the child. All Child in Need meetings are taking place virtually and within normal timescales.

Children who have, or have previously had, a social worker or are on the edge of social care involvement or pending allocation of a social worker

There is an expectation that children with a social worker must attend school (or another school by arrangement), unless in consultation with the child's social worker and family it is agreed this is not in the best interests of the child. Designated Safeguarding Leads continue to work with these children, their families and allocated social workers to ensure they are safe and having their needs met.

This is done by telephone welfare checks, liaison with children's social care and home visits carried out by the Education Welfare Service or police when required.

Children with an EHCP

The SEND team will have twice weekly contacts with their allocated children

During contact the following is covered:

- Their emotional well-being
- Any issues with accessing the schools home learning or mainstream provision
- Any matters arising

Alongside this SEATSS (Specialist Education and Training Support Service), continue to work with children and their families on their caseload to offer guidance and support via telephone.

Other vulnerable groups

There will be students, particularly those with mental health concerns, who do not fall into the above categories.

Those students known to have mental health concerns, including anxiety, will be contacted regularly by the Designated Safeguarding Leads. These students have also been provided with contact details for agencies who can support them when school is not operating as normal.

Where students receive support from external agencies such as CAMHS, Eating Disorder Service, FUSION etc Designated Safeguarding Leads remain in contact with their allocated workers to ensure students are receiving required support and intervention.

In addition to this there is a designated Google Classroom for wellbeing which posts advice and guidance for students on a regular basis. Through this platform students are reminded of how they can access support if required.

Each of these children has an individual plan which has been shared with other agencies involved in their care, including where appropriate their social worker and the Virtual School Head for Looked After and previously Looked After Children.

In addition, the following groups have specific arrangements around contact and support from the school.

New referrals

The school continues to receive welfare checks from external agencies including children's social care, CAMHS, police and other partners. Welfare checks continue to be provided by the Designated Safeguarding Leads within designated timescales to ensure safe partnership working.

Attendance & Procedures for recording school attendance

All students are now expected to attend school unless they are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV). Those students accessing home learning will receive regular welfare checks. Differentials in reasons for non-attendance will be indicated by the new codes released by the DFE. This is also reflected in our updated attendance addendum February 2021

Staff will be aware of increased risk

The pressures on children and their families now are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, poverty, and financial or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in the setting of any work for children to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning – see below). Staff will be aware of the mental health of both children and their parents and carers, informing the DSL about any concerns.

Peer on peer abuse

We address the issue of peer-on-peer abuse in our remote learning curriculum. A student well-being google classroom is active and information, advice, education and sign posts to CEOP and other agencies are posted here.

Mental Health

The coronavirus outbreak may have caused significant mental health or wellbeing difficulties for some children. It is important to recognise that while 'getting back to normal' is important and will be reassuring for many, school staff will need to consider:

- individual children who have found the long period at home hard to manage
- those who have developed anxieties related to the virus
- those about whom there are safeguarding concerns
- those who may make safeguarding disclosures once they are back in schools

Some children may also have experienced bereavements in their immediate family or wider circle of friends or family or had increased/new caring responsibilities. All children will have missed the routine of school, seeing their friends, and being supported by their teachers and other adults in the school.

Risk online

Young people will be using the internet more during this period. The school may also use online approaches to deliver training or support. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of cyberbullying

and other risks online and apply the same child-centred safeguarding practices as when children were learning at the school.

- The school continues to ensure appropriate filters and monitors are in place
- Our governing body will review arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate
- The school has taken on board guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on safe remote learning and guidance for safer working practice from the Safer Recruitment Consortium. We have reviewed the code of conduct and information sharing policy accordingly
- Staff have discussed the risk that professional boundaries could slip during this exceptional period and been reminded of the school's code of conduct and importance of using school systems to communicate with children and their families.

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 that 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 code of conduct.

Wanstead High School 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:

- Staff 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.
- Lessons should be pre-recorded narration only and shared with CTL: no webcams or filming should be used.
- Lessons should be kept to a reasonable length of time.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms the school has approved to communicate with pupils
- All content should be in line with departmental curriculum
- All email communication to students will be copied into a line manager

Parents and carers have received information about keeping children safe online with peers, the school, other education offers they may access and the wider internet community. We have set out the school's approach, including the sites children will be asked to access and set out who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online. Parents have been offered the following links:

- Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- Net-aware - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers

Free additional support for staff in responding to online safety issues can be accessed from the Professionals Online Safety Helpline at the UK Safer Internet Centre.

Where Covid19 testing is taking place

Wanstead High School will use existing and agency staff to assist in handing out and securing COVID-19 test kits to students and staff members. Other duties may be required such as building test kits, cleaning down areas and directing people.

Under no circumstances will staff in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Staff who, on an unsupervised basis provide personal care on a one-off basis in Wanstead High School, will be in regulated activity. This means that staff administering a COVID-19 test whilst un-supervised, they will be in regulated activity and therefore require an Enhanced DBS with Barred List check.

Existing volunteers in regulated activity do not have to be re-checked if they have already had a DBS check (which includes barred list information).

Supervision must be:

- by a person who is in regulated activity.
- regular and day to day; and
- reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children.

In appointing staff, the school will follow safer recruitment processes.

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements young people could be at greater risk of abuse from staff or volunteers. We remind all staff to maintain the view that 'it could happen here' and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to the safeguarding team via childprotection@wansteadhigh.co.uk

Any staff or volunteers from outside our setting will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of the risks and know what they need to do if they are concerned.

We have confirmed the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged:

Redbridge

Helen Curtis, 020 8708 5350

helen.curtis@redbridge.gov.uk

If necessary, the school will continue to follow the duty to refer to DBS any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, and to the Teacher Regulation Agency in line with paragraph 166 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 using the address Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

New staff or volunteers

New starters must have an induction before starting or on their first morning with the DSL or a deputy. They must read the school child protection policy, the behaviour policy, the whistleblowing policy and

the code of conduct. The DSL or deputy will ensure new recruits know who to contact if worried about a child and ensure the new starters are familiar with the child protection procedure.

If staff or volunteers are transferring in from other registered education or childcare settings for a temporary period to support the care of children, we will seek evidence from their setting that

- the member of staff has completed relevant safeguarding training in line with other similar staff or volunteers,
- they have read Part I and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education, and
- where the role involves regulated activity and the appropriate DBS check has been undertaken by that setting we will undertake a written risk assessment to determine whether a new DBS would need to be undertaken. It may be in these exceptional times we can rely on the DBS undertaken by their setting.

[If you register with Safeguarding Network you can include: New starters will complete the Keeping Children Safe in Education Knowledge Check and the Introduction to Safeguarding Children online courses with Safeguarding Network within their first week.]

Our child protection procedures hold strong:

- Volunteers may not be left unsupervised with children until suitable checks have been undertaken. People supervising volunteers must be themselves in regulated activity, able to provide regular, day to day supervision and reasonable in all circumstances to protect the children.
- The school will undertake a written risk assessment on the specific role of each volunteer to decide whether to obtain an enhanced DBS check (with barred list information) for all staff and volunteers new to working in regulated activity in line with DBS guidance.
- When undertaking ID checks on documents for the DBS it is reasonable to initially check these documents online through a live video link and to accept scanned images of documents for the purpose of applying for the check. The actual documents will then be checked against the scanned images when the employee or volunteer arrives for their first day.
- The school will update the Single Central Record of all staff and volunteers working in the school, including those from other settings. This will include the risk assessment around the DBS. A record will be kept by [insert arrangements] of who is working in the school each day.

New children at the school

Where children join our school from other settings we will require confirmation from the DSL whether they have a Safeguarding File or SEN statement/EHCP. This file must be provided securely before the child begins at our school and a call made from our DSL or a deputy to the placing school's DSL to discuss how best to keep the child safe. In some unusual circumstance this may not be possible. Information provided must include contact details for any appointed social worker and where relevant for the Virtual School Head. Safeguarding information about children placed in our school will be recorded on our safeguarding system, will be securely copied to the placing school DSL and will be securely returned to the placing school on completion of the child's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the child.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment in respect of any new information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know about the information. This will be recorded on our safeguarding recording system.

