

Annex 1



COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at The Rydal Academy

School Name: The Rydal Academy

Policy owner: Jo Thurland

Date: 30.3.20

Date shared with staff: 1.4.20

1. 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 Rydal Academy Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Jo Thurland	07825401188	jthurland@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Mrs Angela Galey- Assistant Headteacher Mr John Armitage- Headteacher Mrs Katie Turnbull- Deputy Headteacher Mrs Lily Peoples- Assistant Headteacher Miss Libby Truby- SEnCo		agaley@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk jarmitage@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk kturnbull@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk lpeoples@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk ltruby@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk
Headteacher	Mr John Armitage	07825401177	jarmitage@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk
Chair of Governors	Mr Mark Gray		mgray@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

Any individual school contacts: officeadmin@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

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 will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority 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.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

The Rydal Academy 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 Jo Thurland

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at increased risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and The Rydal Academy will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, The Rydal Academy or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

The Rydal Academy will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

The Rydal Academy will submit the daily attendance sheet to the DfE by 12 noon each day.

The Rydal Academy and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school –The Rydal Academy will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. The Rydal Academy will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

To support the above, The Rydal Academy will, when communicating with parents/carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, The Rydal Academy will notify their social worker. The DSL, SLT and attendance staff will contact those children who are most vulnerable on a regular basis, at least weekly, and record the outcomes on CPOMs. Any concerns will be followed up by the DSL.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Rydal Academy has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs Jo Thurland

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Mrs Angela Galey, Mr John Armitage, Mrs Katie Turnbull, Mrs Lily Peoples, Miss Libby Truby

The DSL or one of the deputies will be available on site every day and staff will be made aware of who this is through the daily timetable. CPOMs will be monitored daily.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

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 Designated Safeguarding Lead- Mrs Jo Thurland or the Headteacher - Mr John Armitage. 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 contact the headteacher immediately. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Mr Mark Gray mgray@rydal.swiftacademies.org.uk

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

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place 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 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.

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

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, The Rydal 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 (2019) (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.

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- 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
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Where The Rydal 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.

The Rydal 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.

The Rydal 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

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, The Rydal 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 and colleges

The Rydal 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 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.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the MAT code of conduct.

The Rydal Academy will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Supporting children not in school

The Rydal Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person and any contact recorded on CPOMs.

The communication can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

The Rydal Academy and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

The Rydal Academy recognises 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 at The Rydal Academy need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Supporting children in school

The Rydal Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

The Rydal Academy 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 safety.

The Rydal 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.

The Rydal Academy will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

Where The Rydal Academy has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – we will discuss them immediately with the trust.

Peer on Peer Abuse

The Rydal Academy recognises that during the 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) will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively.

15. Darlington Key Contacts

Safeguarding concerns

Children's Initial Advice Team professional line will be available to support all professionals with a new child concern.

Monday - Thursday: 8:30am - 5pm

Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm

Tel: 01325 406252

If you need to get in touch out of office hours, contact **the Emergency Duty Team on 01642 524552.**

Police Non-emergency 101

Adult Duty Team

First Point of Contact Team on **01325 406111**
or the Emergency Duty Team on **01642 524552**.

Health

School Nurse: Karen Guy or 03000030013

CAMHS: County Durham and Darlington 0300 1239296

Virtual Head for LAC

Calvin Kiplin 01325 406272

Designated Officer at the Local Authority

Marian Garland 01325 406459

Early Help Team

To refer for Early Help, Safer families support or for advice contact **Kelly-Ann Reay, Early Help Coordinator, Tel: 01325 405635 or 07946340385**

All Children's Services Teams, Early Help Team and Education staff are remote working. Social Workers and Education staff are taking calls as usual if they are in work and not self-isolating.

In the event that you cannot speak to a **child's Social Worker or Early Help Worker call 01325 406222 option 1 and ask to speak to the duty worker.**

If you are unaware of the name or contact details of a child's Social Worker call 01325 400622 option 2 and the children's front door business support staff will help.

Darlington Council Coronavirus Support Hub

Darlington Council support hub is available to help those people in our borough most affected by the Coronavirus outbreak. The hub will be available seven days a week and is there for people who can't get help from family, friends or volunteers.

Call the hub on 01325 405000

Safeguarding Procedures

Advice from Darlington Safeguarding Partnership



Darlington
Safeguarding Partner:

Multi-agency Strategy Meetings, Initial Child Protection Conferences, Review Child Protection Conferences, Core Groups and Looked After Reviews for children will still be taking place using virtual platforms or telephone conference and have/will work with partners to manage this. Schools will be contacted and arrangements shared for individual cases.

Social Workers / Early Help Team visiting families due to child protection concerns, statutory visits

- Early Help Teams will be contacting families daily.
- Where face to face contact is required for all visits, staff will telephone in advance to clarify it is still safe to visit. Social Workers will see children in gardens areas, through windows etc ensuring social distancing or via virtual platforms.
- Children's Social Care are requesting colleagues across partner agencies proactively share information about families who they know are self-isolating, to avoid any unnecessary home visits and contact, ensuring all are protected from unnecessary exposure to the virus.

Durham Prevent Team

Contact the Prevent Team, advice or referral regarding radicalisation or terrorism.

Police Prevent Team (office hours) 0191 375 2234

DC 1023 Steven Smith

Prevent Counter Terrorism Case Officer

0191 375 2555

07889702208

steven.smith@durham.pnn.police.uk

PC 1080 Billy Crampsie

billy.crampsie@durham.pnn.police.uk

0191 375 2555

Non-urgent enquiries 101, Emergency calls 999

To report illegal information, pictures or videos found on the internet

www.gov.uk/report-terrorism.

Anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321

Due Diligence and Counter Extremism Group (DDCEG) Helpline - (020 7340 7264)

For education staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly and in confidence

CHANNEL Panel Chair

Jo Benson, Head of Youth Offending Service

Contact details: 01325 406791

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www.gov.uk/report-terrorism. Anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321