COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at The Latimer Arts College

Context

From 4 January 2021, parents and carers 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 in order to allow their parents and carers to continue working.

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 Latimer Arts College Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

Named staff and contacts:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Jyoti Pankhania, Assistant Principal, jpankhania@latimer.org.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Heidi Angel, LAC Co-ordinator, hangel@latimer.org.uk

Nominated Safeguarding Governor: Carol Taylor

Safeguarding, advice and training contacts:

Safeguarding referrals must be made in one of the following ways:

- By telephone, contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: **0300 126 1000;**

- By e-mail: **MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk;**

- **By using the online referral form found at:**
  http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/thresholdsandpathways

- In an emergency outside office hours, by contacting the Emergency Duty Team or the Police: **01604 626938**

- **If a child is in immediate danger at any time, left alone or missing, you should contact the police directly and/or an ambulance using 999.**

- For referrals regarding adults in education: Designated Officers (formerly LADOs) 01604 367268, **DOReferral@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk**

Vulnerable children

- Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

  - are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child

  - have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

  - have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:

  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services

  - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order

  - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')

  - those living in temporary accommodation

  - those who are young carers

  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study

  - care leavers

  - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

- 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 deputy) 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 College 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 College will work with the virtual schools, social workers, parents and carers to ensure the education provision is in the best interest of the student and regularly review and amend as necessary.

- The College will communicate with virtual schools, social workers, parents and carers on a weekly basis ensuring a vulnerable student welfare check is completed and any actions addressed.

Attendance monitoring

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

- The College will complete a daily register of students attending the 'child care provision' along with the register of the staff on site enabling the provision to take place and report this to the DfE. We will provide the information to Northamptonshire County Council upon request.

- The College will follow up on any students that they were expecting to attend, who do not. The College will also follow up on any students who arrive for the child care provision but were not expected in.

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

Designated Safeguarding Lead

- The College has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL who are available either on site or via email or phone. Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, the senior leader who is on rota on site will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding.

- The College will ensure that all staff know who is responsible for co-ordinating safeguarding on site on any given day.

- The DSL and Deputy 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 who is attending the childcare provision, they will report this to the member of SLT on duty who will contact the DSL or Deputy DSL.

- 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 College, they should contact the Principal via a telephone conversation or email.

- Concerns around the Principal should be directed to the Chair of Governors.

Safeguarding Training and Induction

- For the period that 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 College staff have had safeguarding training and have read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). 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 College, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

Safer Recruitment/Volunteers

- It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the College's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, the College 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.

- The College 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 a vulnerable adult.

- 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 College will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020).

Online safety in schools and colleges

- The College will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

- Where students are using computers in College, 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 Staff Code of Conduct.

- The College 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 College is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

- 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.

- The College will work closely with all stakeholders to maximize the effectiveness of any communication plan.

- This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

Supporting children in school

- The College is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students and will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.

- The Principal will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to student ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximize safety.

- The College 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 COVID-19.

- The College 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.

Peer on Peer abuse

- The College recognises that during the closure, a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims**.**

- Where the College receives a report of peer on peer abuse, it will follow the principles as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) and of those outlined within the Child Protection Policy.

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

- Concerns and actions must be recorded on My Concern and appropriate referrals made.