

Appendix to Safeguarding Policy March 2020 (to cover the period of school closure due to COVID-19)

The Whitehill Primary School Hub will ensure that safeguarding is paramount in relation to the health, safety and wellbeing of our children and staff during these difficult and unprecedented times. As a hub, we will continue to work within statutory guidance of the DFE “Keeping children safe in education” and within the requirements and recommendations of the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP) with regard to child protection and supporting vulnerable children and families.

As a Hub, we will review and revise our policies and procedures in response to the changing arrangements in relation to COVID-19. All updates will be shared with parents/carers and other key stakeholders to ensure clarity of procedures.

As a Hub, we are operating a service to the children of key workers and those identified by the DFE/Local authority or school as vulnerable due to specific need. It is our intention to provide a safe and engaging experience for all the children involved. We have a two-pronged approach to our provision:

- Children attend the hub full or part time depending on parental circumstances, including key worker children
- Children participate in Home Learning (via Google Classroom and Tapestry) from home

Staffing

The Hub is staffed with Whitehill Primary School staff, including senior leaders, teaching staff and other support staff including admin, site staff, kitchen staff and other support staff to ensure that all the children are well looked after. All members of the Senior Leadership Team are trained Designated Safeguarding Officers and there will always be a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) on site to ensure that the Hub meets its statutory duty. Every member of school staff receives safeguarding training on an annual basis to ensure that their knowledge of child protection is up to date.

Children Attending the Hub

Every member of staff is committed to the health and wellbeing of the children in their care. In relation to any children attending the Hub, the following safeguarding procedure will apply:

- Children will be signed in and out by responsible adults
- Where any children expected do not attend, parents will be contacted on the day
- Where any child is collected by someone who has not previously been approved by the parent, a phone call home will be made and the child will not be released until parental confirmation has been made.
- If a member of staff has a safeguarding concern, they will report to the DSO on site using the usual safeguarding process and forms used in school.
- The DSO will refer to the statutory guidance and make a decision based on the KSCMP criteria

Children Accessing Online Learning

The ability to connect with the pupils through a virtual classroom in this difficult time is very valuable to their continued learning. Every class will post work on the “Google Classroom” and can see when the children post their assignments.

The DHT for Teaching and Learning - Mrs Prest has an overview of the Home Learning platform and will ensure that teachers have appropriate training and information to ensure that this is a safe and inspiring means of engaging with the pupils.

Home Learning is a very important means of keeping the children connected with their class teacher and inform them of group activities such as quizzes and singing. Not only is it good for their learning, but in relation to their mental health, it is good to feel connected. However, it is not possible for the school to monitor other online activities, such as social media. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that your child engages with online activity safely. It is also the parents/carers responsibility for any online activity not related to learning does not take place on equipment supplied by the school. Parents/carers should ensure that the level of parental controls are age appropriate to ensure that children are not exposed to online danger. If you require any further support in respect of online safety, please contact The Hub.

Contact from School

Attendance at school and signing into the virtual classroom are the main means of the Hub having a sense that you and your children are getting on well during a very a difficult situation. If there has been no contact with school through online activity or attendance, staff from the school will make contact to touch base and ensure that where possible, everything is ok. It is important that you respond to phone calls, texts or emails so that we know that where possible, everyone is ok. If you have any problems or worries you feel the school can help with, you should get in touch with the school office in the first instance.

Vulnerable Children

The Government, Local Authority and school have an overview of children whom they consider to be vulnerable. The Deputy Head of Inclusion and Family Liaison Officer have an overview of the children involved and will be keeping in regular contact with families involved by phone calls, emails etc. The Hub is open to such children on a full or part time basis. The Hub will also be in contact with other key stakeholders to ensure that there is a continuity of care.