

Annex 1

COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Pawlett Primary School Academy

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Policy owner: Emma Barker

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1. Context

From 5th January 2021 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 Pawlett Primary School 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 | Emma Barker | 07986 603793 | emma.barker@ppsa.theplt.org.uk |
| Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead | Sally Jeffries | 01278 684151 | sally.jeffries@ppsa.theplt.org.uk |
| Chair of Governors | Moira Allen | c/o 01278 684151 | moira.allen@ppsa.theplt.org.uk |
| Safeguarding Governor | Samara Johnson | c/o 01278 684151 | samara.johnson@ppsa.theplt.org.uk |

2 Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). 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 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 EHCP 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 EHCP's 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 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.

Pawlett Primary School 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 Emma Barker.

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 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 Pawlett Primary School Academy will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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

Pawlett Primary School Academy will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

3 Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-today attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. Pawlett Primary School Academy and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – Pawlett Primary School Academy will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Pawlett Primary School 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, Pawlett Primary School Academy will, when communicating with parents/carers and 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, Pawlett Primary School Academy will notify their social worker.

4 Designated Safeguarding Lead

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case, a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home. Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, CPOMS and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

It is important that all Pawlett Primary School Academy staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of that person is and how to speak to them. The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

5 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 directly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, which can be done remotely. The concern should include an alert to advise the Designated Safeguarding Lead it has been reported.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately. Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should use CPOMS to report the concern to the Principal. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Principal whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Principal. Concerns around the Principal should be directed to the Chair of Academy Council:

Moira Allen

The Priory Learning Trust will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

6 Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding Training and induction DSL training is very 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 (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 Pawlett Primary School Academy, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. Staff who are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school will all come from other academies within our Trust and therefore follow the same safeguarding policy. In the case of Pawlett Primary School Academy staff attending a different site, they will ensure that they have completed safeguarding induction there.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

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

7 Safer recruitment

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. Pawlett Primary School Academy will not utilise volunteers during the Covid 19 period.

Pawlett Primary School 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. Pawlett Primary School 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 will be in the school, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Pawlett Primary School Academy will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

8 Online safety in schools and colleges

Pawlett Primary School Academy will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. With regards to parents utilising our loan service of Notebooks, parents and carers sign an agreement which states there is no online filtering on these devices and it is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure their child's safety online. Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

9 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 contact should follow the same principles as set out in the TPLT code of conduct.

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

Pawlett Batch Primary School Academy will be contacting families at home via video links. As a result, the following will be considered when making contact, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s, groups only
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas where possible, Live contact should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.

10 Supporting children not in school

Pawlett Primary School 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. Details of this plan must be recorded on the shared spreadsheet, as should a record of contact have made.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, doorstep visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded. Pawlett Primary School Academy and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise 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. The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages. Pawlett Primary School 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 Pawlett Primary

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

Pawlett Primary School 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.

11 Supporting children in school

Pawlett Primary School Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. The Principal will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety. Pawlett Primary School 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.

12 Peer on Peer Abuse

Pawlett Primary School 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 multiagency partner required ensuring the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions must be recorded and appropriate referrals made.

13 Support from The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT)

The TPLT Central Team will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively. This includes, remotely accessing Child Protection files for the purpose of quality assurance, support, guidance and direction.

The central team will also provide regular group and individual supervision sessions where appropriate. This may take the form of an online meeting. Central team members are contactable through email, phone or via online video conferencing