

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL
SAFEGUARDING POLICY

APPENDIX 8

Interim Safeguarding Arrangements During Remote Learning due to Coronavirus

Context

Whilst acknowledging the pressure that all schools and colleges are under as a result of the required responses to addressing coronavirus (COVID-19), we understand it remains essential that we continue to be a safe place for pupils.

This guidance is designed to support us a whole school community to ensure we continue to have appropriate regard to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2020) and promote the welfare of all our pupils.

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- With regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first.
- If anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act immediately in line with existing expectations.
- A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy (DDSL) must be available.
- Safer working practices must be maintained - it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children.

Safeguarding principles remain unchanged. How we escalate and manage them is communicated here and will be shared with all governors and staff to ensure they are understood by the whole school community. This document is an appendix to our more detailed Safeguarding Policy which still contains relevant details and information on recognising and responding to abuse and continues to be a source of reference.

As a school and in line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) we are committed to working in partnership with Stockport Local Authority and Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership and, where families reside outside Stockport, with other Local Authorities and Safeguarding Children Partnerships. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all should make sure their approach remains child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child. We work in a multi-agency way understanding no single professional can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the

January 2021

right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action. Children should continue to be safeguarded when they are online.

1 Reporting a safeguarding concern

Stockport Grammar School recognises that our pupils may face challenges and be exposed to risks whilst away from school for this extended period. School staff will still have contact with pupils, and will offer support, advice and guidance, applying the principles of the school environment to offer suitable pastoral support. Everyone has a role to play and we expect staff to be vigilant in their interactions with pupils.

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy.

We will have a trained DSL or deputy (DDSL) available on site and contactable via the school office in the Senior and Junior Schools. If this is not possible we will have a trained DSL or DDSL available to be contacted via phone or online video, for example working from home. Where a trained DSL or DDSL is not on site, in addition to the above a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

DSLs and DDSLs can also be contacted by staff, parents and pupils by email as follows:

In the Senior School: the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs White, by email on whitej@stockportgrammar.co.uk and copy in the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs) to ensure the concern is received. The DDSLs are Mrs Lawson lawsonh@stockportgrammar.co.uk Mrs Smith smithj@stockportgrammar.co.uk and Mr Stone stonedj@stockportgrammar.co.uk

In the Junior School: the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs Hampson, by email on hampsonc@stockportgrammar.co.uk and copy in the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs) to ensure the concern is received. The DDSLs are Mr Copping coppingm@stockportgrammar.co.uk and Mr Milnes milness@stockportgrammar.co.uk

If the concern is urgent and outside of the school day or outside of term time, Senior School staff, parents and pupils should phone the Senior Management Team emergency phone number 0161 419 2418 and speak to a member of the Senior Management Team (Head, Deputy Heads, Heads of Section or Bursar) who will contact the DSL or a DDSL. For the Junior School the emergency phone numbers are, 0161 419 2432 or 0161 419 2434, which will connect to the Head, Mr Copping, or the Deputy Head, Mr Milnes.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

The DSLs and DDSLs and other pastoral staff will continue to engage with social workers and attend all multi-agency meetings which can be done remotely.

January 2021

The full responsibilities of the DSL and DDSs are covered in our main Safeguarding Policy.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the Headmaster by phone or email.

Concerns around the Headmaster should be directed to the Chair of Governors who can be contacted by emailing the Bursar watsonc@stockportgrammar.co.uk

2 Safeguarding vulnerable children and young people

Schools are being asked to continue to provide care for vulnerable children and young people. 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

Schools are expected to allow and strongly encourage vulnerable children and young people to attend. Parents/carers of vulnerable children and young people are strongly encouraged to take up the place.

If vulnerable children and young people do not attend, schools should:

- work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) to follow up with the parent or carer to explore the reason for absence, discussing their concerns using supporting guidance considering the child's circumstances and their best interests
- work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) and other relevant partners to encourage the child or young person to attend

January 2021

educational provision, particularly where the social worker agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate

Where schools grant a leave of absence to a vulnerable child or young person they should still speak to parents and carers, and social workers (where applicable) to explore the reasons for this and any concerns raised. The discussions should focus on the welfare of the child or young person and ensuring that the child or young person is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home.

If school has to temporarily stop on-site provision on public health advice, we will inform the local authority to discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people and work towards welcoming back pupils as soon as possible, where feasible to do so.

Where individuals who are self-isolating are within the definition of vulnerable, we will put systems in place to keep in contact with them.

When a vulnerable child is asked to self-isolate, we will notify their social worker (if they have one). We will then agree with the social worker the best way to maintain contact and offer support to the vulnerable child or young person.

We will have procedures to check if a vulnerable child is able to access remote education support, to support them to access it (as far as possible) and to regularly check if they are doing so.

3 Supporting children in school

Stockport Grammar School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. We will continue to be a safe space for children to attend and flourish.

We will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, appropriate support is in place for them.

The Headmaster will ensure that appropriate staff are on site, that the staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate to maximise safety and that there is a school nurse or first aider on site.

We 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.

4 Online safety

It is likely many pupils are accessing internet enabled devices more frequently whilst families follow the advice of the government to 'stay at home'. This is also currently our primary source of contact with most of our students. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we continue to support and educate children on how to stay safe online. Staff should be mindful of existing policies and the details described by the DfE in KCSIE 2020.

January 2021

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

5 Mental Health

In the Senior School:

If Senior School parents have a concern about their child's mental health and wellbeing they should contact their child's Head of Year or Head of Section or the school nurses by phoning the school office or by emailing as follows:

- Mrs Lawson, Head of Lower School lawsonh@stockportgrammar.co.uk
- Mrs Suttle, Head of First Year suttle@stockportgrammar.co.uk
- Mr Hanson, Head of Second Year hansona@stockportgrammar.co.uk
- Dr Zanda, Head of Third Year zandae@stockportgrammar.co.uk
- Mrs Smith, Head of Middle School smithj@stockportgrammar.co.uk
- Mrs Reeve, Head of Fourth Year reevellr@stockportgrammar.co.uk
- Mr Clarke, Head of Fifth Year clarken@stockportgrammar.co.uk
- Mr Stone, Head of Sixth Form stonedj@stockportgrammar.co.uk
- Mrs Ashton, Head of Lower Sixth ashtonh@stockportgrammar.co.uk
- Mrs Britton, Head of Upper Sixth brittonk@stockportgrammar.co.uk
- Mrs Ward, school nurse wardp@stockportgrammar.co.uk
- Mrs Kenny, school nurse kennyc@stockportgrammar.co.uk

If emailing, parents should copy in another relevant member of the pastoral team to ensure that the concern is received.

Pupils who are concerned about their mental health and wellbeing should also email their Head of Year, Head of Section or school nurses, copying in another member of the pastoral team to ensure that the concern is received.

In the Junior School:

If Junior School parents have a concern about their child's mental health and wellbeing they should contact their child's Form Teacher in the first instance by telephoning the school office or emailing the relevant Form Teacher. In the highly unlikely event that they are unable to make contact, they should email noblej@stockportgrammar.co.uk and also copy in hampsonc@stockportgrammar.co.uk .

Children who have any concerns about their mental health and wellbeing should ask their Form Teacher during Google Meet Form Time to have a separate conversation. The Form Teacher will then arrange a suitable time to meet with the child and their parents.

If the concern is urgent and outside of the school day or term time:

The emergency phone numbers as given in section 1 'Reporting a safeguarding concern' should be contacted.

6 Attendance

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

If Stockport Grammar School has any children in attendance (because they are vulnerable or their parents/carers are critical workers) we will submit the daily attendance sheet to the DfE.

7 Safer recruitment and safer working practice

Any new staff, visitors or volunteers will be risk assessed and inducted in line with existing practice and in compliance with KCSIE 2020.

Staff should continue to apply the principles of our staff code of conduct.

It is particularly important that staff pay regard to advice and guidance on safer worker practice, especially in relation to any online activity.

8 Staff training and safeguarding induction

All existing staff have completed statutory safeguarding training and have read part 1 of KCSIE 2020, the school's Safeguarding Policy and the staff code of conduct. Staff should adhere to the principles of these key documents and this new, additional appendix. Staff should also be aware that there may be further updates and guidance. Individuals will need to be vigilant and ensure that they read all new guidance and ask for clarity or support if required.

9 Emotional wellbeing of staff

We recognise the complexities and challenges of the COVID-19 crisis and the potential impact it may have on the emotional wellbeing of our staff. We will continually review guidance and cascade information across our workforce. We ask staff to be vigilant for signs of distress and to respond to them in line with our usual working practice.

January 2021