

Appendix 1

Xxxxxxxxxx Academy Covid19 Safeguarding Policy addendum: Supporting children not in school (vulnerable children, as defined, and those assessed as vulnerable by school)

Signed Chair of Governors:

Date:

Date shared with staff:

This is an addendum to the school's current Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and does not replace the school's main policy. It will remain in place temporarily in response to the current Covid-19 pandemic. The addendum may be amended in-line with any new guidance received from the Department for Education or Local Authority.

Context

Schools re-opened in September 2020 to all children, operating under the guidance provided by the government (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>) identifying and implementing protective measures in order to minimise risks associated with the transmission of Covid-19.

This addendum contains details of Tower Road Academy's individual safeguarding arrangements for the following areas:

- Children who are self-isolating
- School closure
- Remote Learning

Children who are self-isolating

In accordance with current guidance, children may need to isolate if they are deemed to have been in contact with a positive Covid-19 case. This case could come from within the school or from outside. Parents should notify the school if their child is isolating because of contact with a positive case outside of school, providing the date of when the child will return to school. The school will notify parents of the need to isolate if there is a positive case from within school. Parents will be provided with dates relating to when the isolation should start and when children are able to return to school after seeking advice from the Department for Education helpline and/or Public Health England. Children who are not able to attend school due to needing to self-isolate should access remote learning, as detailed in the school's remote learning policy.

More specific arrangements are in place for those pupils identified as being vulnerable. This relates to:

- children who have a social worker (i.e. 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)
- children with an EHCP
- children on the edge of social care
- children who routinely receive pastoral-type support in school

The arrangements are as follows:

- Social worker/EHW/SEND Caseworker will be notified

- Phone call to parents of vulnerable children to check that the pupil can access the remote learning and that arrangements are in place for the period of isolation. This will be recorded on a risk assessment and reviewed at least fortnightly.
- SENCo to phone parents of those children on the SEND register (including those with EHCPs) to ensure that remote learning can be accessed. Alternative arrangements will be devised if the remote learning cannot be accessed or if it is not appropriate for the child. This information will be recorded on a risk assessment.
- Attendance of vulnerable children in live lessons and their engagement will be monitored by class teachers and any concerns, absences and non-engagement will be forwarded to a member of the Safeguarding Team or SLT in a timely manner. Non-engagement will be identified after 48 hours (i.e. on day 2).
- A member of the Safeguarding Team or SLT will make contact with parents to discuss non-engagement/attendance in remote learning. Initially this will be by phone. However, if contact cannot be made in this way, then a home visit will be conducted. This will require two members of staff. Social workers/SENCo will be kept informed of any additional communication.
- Prior to the children returning to school, a phone call will be made to check that arrangements are in place for a transition back into school. Any additional arrangements will be organised to ensure a smooth re-entry into school.
- Additional contact with the parents of vulnerable children may be needed and this will be arranged based on an assessment being made.

School Closure

In the event that the school is required to close for a period of time, parents will be notified via ParentMail and the school's remote learning policy will be applied.

The arrangements for vulnerable children will be as detailed above with the addition of:

- Weekly phone call by a member of the Safeguarding Team/SENCo
- Risk assessment being completed and reviewed on a regular basis
- Socially-distanced home visits where needed

If the school remains closed for a longer period of time then this addendum will be updated with the guidance provided by the Local Authority or Department for Education.

Remote Learning

The school's Remote Learning Policy will be available to all parents on the school website. Parents will be reminded about this should a bubble need to isolate or in the event of school closure. School staff will continue to raise any safeguarding concerns, including online/ remote learning concerns following the school's usual procedures. Online safety will continue to be a priority for the school in

terms of children's education and staff training during the Covid-19 pandemic. This will be reflected in the school's curriculum and in the professional development plan for staff.

Safeguarding Concerns

Any safeguarding concerns should be raised in the usual way, following the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy.