

# David Nieper Education Trust



## Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy & Procedures – Addendum for Covid 19 safeguarding procedures and considerations January 2021

---

This addendum was originated by Richard White – Deputy Head and updated by Emma Merchant – Assistant Head

### Version Control

Version 1	March 2020
Version 2	January 2021
Version 3	

Signed:	Date:

**Due for review August 2020 or following key changes in legislation**

## **Context**

From January 4th 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 David Nieper Academy Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

## **Vulnerable children**

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans. 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 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.

Those with an EHC plan 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 EHC plans 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. David Nieper 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 people for this will be Emma Merchant and Lisa Howard.

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 David Nieper Academy will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, David Nieper Academy or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England. David Nieper Academy will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

## **Attendance monitoring**

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

To support the above, David Nieper 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, David Nieper Academy will notify their social worker.

## **Designated Safeguarding Leads**

David Nieper Academy has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Lisa Howard. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Emma Merchant. Furthermore, the academy has six further staff who are trained Designated Safeguarding Persons (DSP). These are Kathryn Hobbs (Headteacher), Richard White (Deputy Headteacher), Chris Endacott (Assistant Head), Blair Matthews (Family Support Manager), Heidi Sheridan (Pastoral Support Manager) and Stuart Artliff (Pastoral Support Manager).

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or DSP) available on site and all staffing rotas plan for this. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or DSP) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home. Where a trained DSL (or DSP) 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, My Concern and liaising with the offsite DSL (or DSP) 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 David Nieper Academy staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or DSP). 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.

## **Reporting a concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the academy Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via My Concern, which can be done remotely. In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their My Concern from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Headteacher. This will ensure that the concern is received. 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 school, they should report the concern to the headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the headteacher. Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors, Christopher Nieper

## **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 academy 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 David Nieper Academy, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our academy, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

## **Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff**

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

Where David Nieper Academy are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in KCSIE and the academy Volunteer Policy. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

David Nieper 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 in KCSIE. David Nieper Academy will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as in 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](mailto: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/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, David Nieper Academy will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in KCSIE.

## **Online safety in schools and colleges**

David Nieper Academy will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where students are using computers in school, 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 academy code of conduct. David Nieper Academy will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

### **Online communication and home learning**

During extended periods of home learning, it will be necessary for academy staff to communicate with pupils about the ongoing teaching and learning. Staff may only contact pupils using their academy email accounts and show my homework. No other platforms are permitted. If pupils attempt to contact staff using other means (e.g. non-academy emails), these communications should be ignored and pupils should be redirected towards the acceptable platforms.

Technology is extremely important in ensuring that learning can continue in the home. The academy supports the practice of teaching staff making pre-recorded videos (such as via YouTube) or audio clips that can then be shared through Show My Homework. The academy does not support the practice of live lessons or the live streaming of teaching and learning materials. This includes the use of Skype and Zoom, as the live and public nature these platforms does not provide the necessary safeguarding structures. This also applies to any pastoral contact; including assemblies, mentoring and tutor time.

Below are some general things to consider when providing online learning, especially where videos are involved:

- Staff must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and the background should be blurred.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.

## **Supporting children not in school**

David Nieper 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. The communication plans can

include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded. David Nieper 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 academy will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages. David Nieper 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 David Nieper academy need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

## **Supporting children in school**

David Nieper Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. David Nieper Academy will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.

The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

David Nieper 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.

David Nieper 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.

Where David Nieper Academy has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – will discuss them immediately with the Governors/Trustees.

## **Peer on Peer Abuse**

David Nieper 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 the Safeguarding Policy.

The academy will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions must be recorded on My Concern and appropriate referrals made.

## Key Contacts

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Lisa Howard [lhoward@davidnieper.academy](mailto:lhoward@davidnieper.academy) 01773 832331
- **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Emma Merchant (Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral & Inclusion) [emerchant@davidnieper.academy](mailto:emerchant@davidnieper.academy)
- **Headteacher:** Dr Kathryn Hobbs [headteacher@davidnieper.academy](mailto:headteacher@davidnieper.academy)
- **Governors with safeguarding responsibility:** Nicola Bettison & Jane Cutts
- **Chair of Governors:** Christopher Nieper [clerktrustees@davidnieper.academy](mailto:clerktrustees@davidnieper.academy)
- **Family Support Manager:** Blair Matthews [bmatthews@davidnieper.academy](mailto:bmatthews@davidnieper.academy) 01773 832331