

Wolverhampton Girls' High School

Safeguarding Policy: Covid-19 Annex

This is version 1.0 (2/4/2020) of this annex. It will be reviewed by our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a deputy DSL on a weekly basis as circumstances continue to evolve or following updated Department for Education advice or guidance. Where the DSL makes proposals for amendment, these will be reviewed by the Headteacher, Safeguarding Governor and Chair of Curriculum and Development Committee. It is available on the school website [here](#) and is made available to staff on Microsoft Teams within the Safeguarding Information Section of the All Staff Team.

1. Over-arching principles

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 the students must always continue to come first;
- if anyone in school has a safeguarding concern about any student they should continue to act and act immediately;
- a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL should be available to contact;
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children and young people; and
- students should continue to be protected when they are online.

Wolverhampton Girls' High School's staff will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This will be especially important during the Covid-19 period.

2. Designated Safeguarding Lead arrangements

Whilst school is open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable students who are attending school, there will be staff in school from 9am - 3pm. The staff in school will include a trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (or one available remotely). They will be available to: discuss concerns or queries with other staff members, respond to concerns raised by students about their own welfare or wellbeing of one of their peers and respond to safeguarding concerns raised by parents/carers.

3. Staff training and induction

For the duration of the Covid-19 measures, our DSL and deputy DSLs are unlikely to receive their refresher training. In line with government guidance, our trained DSL and deputy DSLs will be classed as trained even if they cannot receive this training.

All current school staff have received safeguarding training and have read Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education. When new staff are recruited or volunteers join us, they will receive a safeguarding induction in accordance with our [Safeguarding Policy](#).

Should the need arise for staff from another setting to attend the school site then, in line with government guidance, we will not undertake any additional safeguarding checks if the setting providing those staff confirm that:

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check and, that in the opinion of that setting, nothing resulted from those checks that provided any cause for concern;

- there are no safeguarding investigations into the conduct of that individual; and
- the individual remains suitable to work with children.

4. Reporting safeguarding concerns

It is important that all staff continue to act immediately on any safeguarding concerns. Where members of staff have a safeguarding concern, which can no longer be raised in person in the ongoing lockdown, they can raise it through the following channels:

- If a student is at immediate risk of harm, contact 999 and let the operator know it is a potential child protection issue.
- Where a student is not at immediate risk of harm, and you wish to record a concern, you should contact school on 01902 551515 and ask to speak to the designated DSL for the day. Once communicating your concern with the designated DSL, you will be directed to complete the electronic Record of Concern form within the Safeguarding Information section of the All Staff Microsoft Teams page.

Should your concern arise outside of school hours then you may choose to contact the local safeguarding hub for the area in which that child resides. For the most current contact details please refer to the information provided on the Local Area Safeguarding Board website. Contact should then be made at the earliest opportunity with the designated DSL to alert them of your concern and that a multi-agency referral has been completed.

Concerns about an adult working with young people should be raised directly with the Headteacher by contacting school on 01902 551515 and asking for the Headteacher to telephone you back. Where this is a concern about the Headteacher, the same process should be followed but the request made to speak with the Chair of Governors.

Useful contact numbers/details of safeguarding hubs:

Wolverhampton Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	<p>Child Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5pm, Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm on 01902 555392 Outside of the above hours for emergencies on 01902 552999 If the child or young person is at immediate risk of serious harm dial 999</p> <p>Adult Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5pm, Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm 01902 551199 For emergencies out of above hours 01902 552999 If immediate action is needed dial 999</p>
Staffordshire First Response Team (Children)	<p>Tel: 0800 1313126 (Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m, Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Tel: 0345 604 2886 (Out of office hours)</p>
Dudley Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	<p>Tel: 0300 555 0050 (9am - 5pm) Tel: 0300 555 8574 (Out of office hours)</p>
Sandwell Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	<p>Tel: 0121 569 3100</p>
Walsall Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	<p>Tel: 0300 555 2866 (Monday - Thursday, 8.45am - 5.15pm Friday, 8.45am - 4.45pm) Tel: 0300 555 2922 or 0300 555 2836 (Out of hours emergency response team)</p>

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Paul Cooper	Tel: 01902 550661 Email: paul.cooper@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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5. Safeguarding and supporting vulnerable students

Vulnerable students include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with EHC plans. Further information can be found in the [guidance on vulnerable children and young people](#).

Students with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed by the school in consultation with the local authority (LA) and parents/carers, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. Most children and young people with EHC plans have needs that can be met at home, because they are not receiving personal care from the school, or their limited need for personal care can be met in the home; in these circumstances they should remain at home, to limit exposure or transmission of the Covid-19 virus.

For students who have a social worker, there is an expectation that the student will attend school provision, unless in consultation with the student's social worker and family it is agreed this is not in the best interests of the student. Where this has been agreed, daily telephone contact (or contact in line with a risk assessment) will be made with the student by the relevant House Leader/Senior Assistant Headteacher (Director of Sixth Form).

There are additional students whom the school has identified as being vulnerable because of particular needs, or circumstances. The vast majority of these students will be at home during school closure periods and so weekly telephone contact will be made with the student by the relevant House Leader Team/Sixth Form Leadership Team.

6. Safeguarding students accessing school on-site provision (vulnerable students and children of key workers)

Where the needs of vulnerable students cannot be met at home, or where children of critical workers cannot be accommodated at home, a small proportion of students may need to access the school site to work under staff supervision during the school day. Critical workers are defined as parents/carers whose work is critical to the Covid-19 response, including those who work in health and social care and in other critical sectors. However, many parents/carers working in these critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every student who can be safely cared for at home should remain at home, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

To safeguard the students accessing school on-site provision, the school will:

- ensure there are systems in place to check on the welfare of any student expected to access in-school provision who does not attend on any day; and
- will implement guidance on hygiene and social distancing provided by the government: [Coronavirus \(Covid-19\): implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings](#)

7. Specific arrangements at Wolverhampton Girls' High School to safeguard students who are learning remotely

The school will implement additional procedures including:

- Members of the pastoral team will continue to make regular contact with students they have been supporting in school via telephone;

- Form Tutors will be running a Form Period on Microsoft Teams, each Monday and Thursday at 12.20pm, with the opportunity for students to raise concerns;
- Monitoring of engagement with online learning to identify students at risk of falling behind or dropping out of contact
- Regular distribution and promotion of wellbeing guidance to all students through the weekly e-bulletin;
- Promotion of e-safety guidance, specifically how students and staff can keep themselves safe online, through regular school updates and guidance; and
- Communication of this Covid-19 Annex to all parents/carers.

8. Student online safety away from school

During the school closure period, students will be set work or taught remotely via Microsoft Teams. Microsoft Teams is only accessible to members of the school domain and is password protected. Parents/carers should encourage students who are working online to do so in a shared space where possible, they should have an awareness of what work the students are being asked to complete and ensure that they are only accessing appropriate resources or websites. Students should be encouraged by parents/carers to keep webcams covered and not stream live images of themselves or others online.

Students who are working online can also raise any concerns whilst online. As well as reporting any concerns to the school, students can also access age-appropriate practical support from the likes of:

- [Childline](#) - for support;
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content; and
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse.

Support for parents/carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents/carers to keep their children safe online;
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents/carers to keep their children safe online;
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents/carers from the NSPCC;
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents/carers to keep their children safe online;
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online; and
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents/carers.

9. Looked after-children

The school will continue to work with and support children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

10. Peer-on-peer and domestic abuse

All staff should be alert to the increased risk of peer on peer abuse and domestic violence that can result from isolation and lockdown, and report concerns promptly following the guidance in section 4.

11. Safer recruitment

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, we will continue to follow our Safer Recruitment Policy.

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.

This annex has been compiled with reference to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-otherproviders/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

<https://www.ascl.org.uk/ASCL/media/ASCL/Help%20and%20advice/Leadership%20and%20governance/Joint-union-advice-on-COVID-19.pdf>