

New Mills School
COVID-19 annex to the Safeguarding Policy

DSL	Ian Withers - Assistant Headteacher
Deputy DSL	Caroline Jesson & Alison Barker – Heads of School,
Trained DSL's	Becki Taylor - Senior Family Support Worker Debbie Hussey - Family Support Worker Emma James – Year Manager
Safeguarding Governor	Tyrone Roberts
Chair of Governors	Felicity Wicks

Response to COVID-19

There have been significant changes within our setting in response to the outbreak. Many young people are now at home and staffing is likely to be significantly affected through illness and self-isolation. Despite the changes, the school's Safeguarding Policy is fundamentally the same: **children and young people always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the DSL in line with our established safeguarding procedure.**

This annex sets out some of the adjustments we are making in line with the changed arrangements in the school and following [advice from government](#) and local agencies.

The current school position and local advice

New Mills School is following updated advice received from Derbyshire County Council regarding students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), students under social care and vulnerable students highlighted by the school.

Reporting arrangements

The school arrangements continue in line with our Safeguarding policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Ian Withers**, iwithers@newmillsschool.co.uk or safeguarding@newmillsschool.co.uk

The Deputy DSLs are: **Caroline Jesson**, cjesson@newmillsschool.co.uk
Alison Barker, abarker@newmillsschool.co.uk

Trained DSL's **Becki Taylor**, btaylor@glossopdale.school
Debbie Hussey, dhussey@newmillsschool.co.uk
Emma James, ejames@newmillsschool.co.uk

The school's approach ensures that there is always an SLT lead on site while the school is open. Staff are aware of the lead via the staff rota shared with staff each week. The DSL or Deputy DSLs will be contactable. All staff have contact e-mail and telephone numbers to use should they have a safeguarding concern.

Staff will continue to follow the usual safeguarding procedure and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any child, whether in school or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Children's services may be affected by the impact of the virus on staff and an increased demand for services. Where a child is at risk of significant harm there may be a need to be an immediate response to the situation. DSL and Deputy DSLs as well as parents can contact Derbyshire Starting Point / Glossop Social Care on the following numbers:

Derbyshire Starting Point: 01629 533190
Glossop Social Care: 01629 531184
Buxton Social Care (Kents Bank) 01629531082

Identifying vulnerability

We have identified our most vulnerable children by using our robust tracking and recording systems in school. We have put in place specific arrangements in respect of the following groups:

- Looked After Children – Contact once per week
- Students subject to a Child Protection Plan / Child in Need Plan – Contact once per week
- Students who have, or have previously had, a social worker- Contact once per week
- Students with an EHCP – Contact at least once a week
- Students on the edge of social care involvement (including Early Help Team and Family Support) or pending allocation of a social worker – Contact at least once per week
- Students identified as SENK – Contact once per week
- Students previously adopted from care – Contact once per week
- Students identified as vulnerable within our Pupil Premium cohort – Contact once per week
- Other students the school considers vulnerable - Contact at least once per week (More students may be added to this group in response to concerns raised with the DSL)

All records of contact will be recorded on the school system for Safeguarding – MyConcern or Provision Map Meeting log. Contact will confirm how the student is getting on with work, if the family has any concerns with Food/Gas/Electric and general welfare. This is in line with Derbyshire advice.

Each of these children has an individual provision map and/or MyConcern profile which has been shared with other agencies involved in their care, including where appropriate their social worker and the Virtual School Head for Looked After and previously Looked After Children.

Holiday arrangements

New Mills School is continuing to provide places for vulnerable children and children of keyworkers over the Easter break. The students will be supervised by staff from the school. There will be a member of SLT on site at all times.

Attendance

The school is following the [attendance guidance issued by government](#). Where a child is expected and does not arrive the school will follow our attendance procedure and make contact with the family. A central register is kept by the Data Team with access permissions for SLT and Pastoral Staff. The attendance information is shared with the DfE on a daily basis.

Staff will be aware of increased risk

The pressures on children and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, poverty and financial or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in the setting of any work for children to undertake at home. Staff will be aware of the mental health of both students and their parents/carers, informing the DSL about any concerns.

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a school closure or partial closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer on peer abuse, including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision. Extra care should be taken where groups have mixed age, developmental stages, and are attending New Mills School. Staff will continue to log concerns using the MyConcern safeguarding procedure.

Risk online

We recognise that our students will be using the internet more during this period. The school is aware of the increased need to highlight online safety and security to all stakeholders. Staff have heightened awareness of the risks online and apply the same student-centred safeguarding practices now, as when students are learning at the school.

- The school continues to ensure appropriate monitoring and filtering is in place.
- Staff have discussed the risk that professional boundaries could slip during this exceptional period and have been reminded of the school's staff code of conduct and importance of using school systems to communicate with children and their families.
- Children and young people accessing remote learning receive guidance on keeping safe online. New Mills School continue to use Class Charts as the main platform for online learning.
- Parents and carers have received information via a letter and information on the website about keeping children safe online with peers, the school, other education offers they may access and the wider internet community.
 - [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
 - [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements in place, students could be at greater risk of abuse from other children or adults at home, staff or volunteers. We remind all staff to maintain the view that 'it could happen here' and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small by using MyConcern logging procedure or by making direct contact with the DSL.

Any staff or volunteers from outside our setting will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of the risks and know how to take action if they are concerned. We have confirmed that the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged.

Derbyshire County Council LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) - Miles Dent (Tel: **01629 531940**)

If necessary, the school will continue to follow the duty to refer any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, and to the Teacher Regulation Agency in line with paragraph 166 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 using the address Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk.

New staff or volunteers

New staff/volunteers must have an induction before starting or on their first morning with the DSL or a Deputy DSL. They must read the school safeguarding policy, the behaviour policy, the whistleblowing policy and the New Mills School staff code of conduct. The DSL or Deputy DSL will ensure that new staff know who to contact if worried about a student, and will ensure the new starters are familiar with the child safeguarding procedures.

If staff or volunteers are transferring in from other registered education or childcare settings for a temporary period to support the care of children, we will seek evidence from their setting that:

- the member of staff has completed relevant safeguarding training in line with other similar staff or volunteers,
- they have read Part I and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education, and
- where the role involves regulated activity and the appropriate DBS check has been undertaken by their original setting, we may undertake a risk assessment to determine whether a new DBS would need to be conducted. It may be that in these exceptional times we can rely on the DBS undertaken by their original setting.

Temporary placements for children at the school / students using New Mills School as a community 'Hub' during Covid 19

Where a student joins our school from other settings during this period, we will require confirmation from the DSL as to whether they have a Safeguarding File or SEN statement/EHCP. This file must be provided securely before the student begins at our school and a call made from our DSL or a Deputy to the placing school's DSL to discuss how best to keep the child safe. In some circumstance this may not be possible. Information provided must include contact details for any appointed social worker and where relevant for the Virtual School Head. Safeguarding information about students placed in our school will be recorded on our safeguarding system, it will be securely copied to the placing school's DSL, and will be securely returned to the placing school on completion of the student's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the student.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment in respect of any new information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know about the information. This will be recorded on our safeguarding recording system.

This policy has been remotely approved by Governors on 03/04/2020 and is available on the school website.