

Covid-19 – Safeguarding Addendum to the Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

On the 22/2/2021 the Government produced a roadmap which will cautiously ease lockdown restrictions in England. This included a directive that from 8 March 2021, all pupils will be expected to attend school.

In order to prepare for this, Egremont Primary School will:

- Implement and follow Government and Public Health Guidance for Education and Childcare Settings on social distancing, handwashing and limiting the risk of spread of coronavirus.
- Continue to follow statutory safeguarding guidance – Keeping Children Safe in Education (Amended Jan 2021)
- Work with and follow the advice of partners in Wirral Local Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Review and where necessary update our risk assessment in light of refreshed guidance
- Ensure there is a system of control measures to minimise the risk of infection
- Have a contingency plan in place for outbreaks in school or changes in restrictions

Risk Assessment

We have a legal duty to protect people from harm. This includes taking reasonable steps to protect staff, pupils and others from coronavirus within our school.

We will implement sensible and proportionate control measures, which follow health and safety hierarchy of controls to reduce the risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/annex-a-health-and-safety-risk-assessment>

We will regularly review and update our risk assessment, treating it as a 'living document' – as the circumstances at our school and the public health changes.

Contingency planning

For individuals or groups of self-isolating pupils and pupils who are shielding following government guidance related to coronavirus, remote education plans are in place.

We will continue to operate as normally as possible. If restrictions are needed in school to help contain the spread of the virus, we will refer to the contingency framework, which has been updated and outlines how schools should operate in the event of any restrictions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-contingency-framework-for-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings-excluding-universities>

Any decision that there should be local restrictions in any childcare or education settings will be made by central government on a case-by-case basis.

Prevention

Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into school if:

- They have one or more of the coronavirus symptoms
- A member of their household, including someone in their support bubble, has one or more of the coronavirus symptoms
- They are required to quarantine, due to having recently visited countries outside of the common travel area
- They have had a positive test

They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

- The start of their symptoms
- The test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test

We will follow this process and ensure that everyone onsite or visiting is aware of it.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works#part-1-people-who-develop-symptoms-of-coronavirus>

If any pupils display coronavirus symptoms whilst in school. we will make contact with their parent or carer in order to arrange for them to be collected and taken home from school.

Whilst waiting for collection the pupil will:

- Be moved to a room where they can be isolated, behind a closed door, depending on the age of the pupil, with appropriate adult supervision being in place
- A window will be opened for fresh air ventilation
- If it is not possible to isolate them, they will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from pupils
- If they need to go to the bathroom whilst waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom, which will be cleaned and disinfected using cleaning products before being used by anyone else
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn by staff caring for the pupil whilst waiting for collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. This will be proportionate and appropriate to the age and needs of the child.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care>

In an emergency 999 will be called if someone is seriously ill, injured or their life is at risk.

Vulnerable Children

Vulnerable children and young children include those who:

- Are assessed as being in need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- Have an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP)
- Have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities, and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance

We will continue to work with and support children's social care and where appropriate, the local authority virtual school head, to help protect vulnerable children.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

In circumstances where a parent or carer is hesitant, reluctant or does not want to bring their child to an educational setting, and the child is considered vulnerable, we will work with the social worker and the parent in order to explore their reasons. In cases when parents have anxieties about the risk of their child contracting coronavirus we will talk through these anxieties, following the advice from Public Health England, together with reassurance on the measures that have been put in place in order to reduce any risks.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils from 8 March 2021

The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- Parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school, and they are of compulsory school age)
- The ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Parents are expected to contact school on the first day of illness/absence of their child, giving the reasons for absence, so that absences can be correctly recorded. We expect parents or carers to contact our school in order to make us aware of the status of any COVID 19 tests that have become necessary, and to update us on the welfare of their child.

A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- Have symptoms or have had a positive test result
- Live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- Are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus

The advice for pupils who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. They are advised not to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally.

We will provide remote education to pupils who are unable to attend school because they are complying with government guidance or legislation around coronavirus, as instructed in the Remote Education Temporary Continuity Direction. We will keep records of this activity. In

cases of pupils not being able to attend due to these circumstances, their absence will not be penalised.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/remote-education-temporary-continuity-direction-explanatory-note>

Safeguarding

Where staff have a concern about a child, they will immediately follow the process outlined in the School Safeguarding Policy. This process will also be followed in cases when staff have concerns about pupils who are currently not attending school.

As children return to school our safeguarding team will be prepared to:

- Support staff and pupils with new safeguarding and welfare concerns
- Handle referrals to children's social care and other agencies where appropriate
- Liaise with partner agencies who have continued to provide virtual support to pupils who have not been in school

Safeguarding training & Induction

All existing school staff have had inductions and safeguarding training which is a statutory requirement as defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 (revised in January 2021). All staff have also read Part 1 and Appendix A of this document. The safeguarding lead will communicate any new local arrangements as and when instructed by Wirral Safeguarding Children's Partnership (WSCP)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954314/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2020_-_Update_-_January_2021.pdf

Advice for attending safeguarding meetings and local working arrangements

Our school is following the advice published by Wirral Safeguarding Children's Partnership (WSCP) covering attendance at statutory meetings and visits to children's homes. Where possible audio/video conferencing is used instead of face-to-face attendance at meetings and visits to pupil's homes are actively discouraged. Where safeguarding concerns exist for new or existing cases, these will be discussed with the Local Authority.