

Cavendish High Academy
Addendum to Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy
Date 6.4.20

COVID-19 arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection are under review, most students are not currently in school and staff numbers have been significantly affected by the outbreak.

From 23rd March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open to provide child care for a limited number of children. These children being those of workers critical to the COVID-19 response who cannot be cared for at home and for children who are vulnerable; these being children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and children who are subject to Child in Need (CIN) plans, Child Protection (CP) plans and those who are Cared for Children who cannot be safely cared for at home. **Within these categories, all children have been risk assessed in conjunction with the LA, in deciding whether it is safer for the child to be kept at home or sent into school.**

This addendum of the Cavendish High Academy's Safeguarding policy outlines our practice during the current crisis; should this need to change over time it will be updated to reflect those changes.

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Wendy McDonnell	01928 561706	wendy.mcdonnell@chs.academy
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Joanna Bournes John Munro	01928 561706	Head.cavendish@halton.gov.uk joanna.bournes@chs.academy john.munro@chs.academy
Safeguarding Governor	Carole Howard		carole.howard@chs.academy

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 have been risk-assessed by the school, 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 Safeguarding team, 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.

Cavendish High Academy will continue to work with others to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority Virtual School Head (VSH) for Cared For and previously Cared For children. The lead team for this will be - Joanna Bournes, John Munro & Wendy McDonnell.

There is a Government and LA 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 increased 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 Cavendish High Academy will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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.

A daily attendance sheet is compiled and submitted to the DfE & LA by 12 noon - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>

If the school has closed, we will complete the return once, as requested by the DfE.

Cavendish High Academy, the LA and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether Children in Need should be attending school – Cavendish High Academy will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

To support the above, Cavendish High Academy will send out a letter to all parents, requesting up to date contact details, ie mobile, landline if available, email if available.

Where a vulnerable child discontinues their place at school, Cavendish High Academy will notify their social worker and school will continue to carry out the usual checks e.g. email contact, phone calls etc.

If staff are unable to make contact with parents / carers over three school days, the social worker will be informed and a children's social care safe and well check requested.

All attendance contact and actions will be recorded on Arbor or CPOMS

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Cavendish High Academy has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and two Deputy DSLs.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Wendy McDonnell

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Joanna Bournes & John Munro

The optimal and expected scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) and qualified First Aider available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or email - for example when working from home. If no First Aider is available, then the LA will be notified and 999 called in an emergency situation.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a middle leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. All staff working on that day will be made aware of the middle leader who is assuming responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and, as required, liaising with children's Social Workers or ICart.

It is important that all Cavendish High Academy staff have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). The daily rota will highlight the DSL or Deputy DSL for that day.

The Safeguarding Team will continue to engage with social workers, and where appropriate, attend 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 school Safeguarding Policy, this includes verbally recording and making a written record of the concern.

Safeguarding Training and induction

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).

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019).

The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where staff offer support from another school, Cavendish should seek assurance from their home school that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training and a record will be kept of this.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's Safeguarding booklet.

Online safety

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

The Academy's website has clear E Safety guidance for parents / carers to follow.

Supporting children not in school

Cavendish High Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children.

Cavendish High Academy recognises that school is a protective factor for children and the current circumstances can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. The school has shared supportive information and links for students, parents & carers on its website.

Supporting children in school

Cavendish High Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Cavendish High Academy will continue to be a safe space for children to attend and flourish. The SLT & ML will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Cavendish High 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.

Where Cavendish High Academy has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or First Aiders – we will raise these immediately with the local Authority.

If you wish to report a safeguarding concern about a child please contact

0151 907 8305 / 0151 5117722 (Office Hours Mon-Thurs, 9am – 5pm, 9am – 4.30pm Fri)

0345 050 0148 (Outside Office Hours and throughout Weekends)

<https://children.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/what-should-i-do-if-i-think-a-child-is-being-abused/>

- **Childline** - <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline/> phone 0800 1111
- **UK Safer Internet Centre** - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/> - to report and remove harmful online content
- **CEOP** - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> for advice on making a report about online abuse and support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- **Internet matters** - <https://www.internetmatters.org/> - support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- **Net-aware** - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> support for parents and careers from the NSPCC regarding social networks, apps and games
- **Thinkuknow** - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline
- **NSPCC** www.nspcc.org.uk Children's charity dedicated to ending child abuse and child cruelty
- **Young Minds** www.youngminds.org.uk Information on child and adolescent mental health. Services for parents and professionals. Phone: Parents' helpline 0808 802 5544 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm)

Further helplines for conditions such as Stress, Anxiety and Depression can be found on the following link to the NHS:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/>

Your local foodbank supported by The Shaw Education Trust is:

Widnes: Trinity Methodist URC Church, Peel House Ln, Widnes WA8 6TJ
Phone: 0151 422 0031 / 49 Lugsdale Rd, Widnes WA8 6TJ Phone: 0151 4220031

Runcorn: 53a, Operations Centre, Russell Rd, Runcorn WA7 4BH 01928 577679

