

Ironstone Academy Trust

Addendum to Child Protection Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19

Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies

On Site: While our school site remains open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are unchanged and continue to be our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies due to their level of training and skill. However due to these unprecedented circumstances they may not physically be on our school site every day. In this case a member of our teaching staff will be physically on site each day and they will be able to liaise directly with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies if any incidents of a child protection nature occur.

Should our school site be entirely closed then we will update our website and Child Protection Policy with our arrangements.

Children moving across provisions due to school closures

This is not planned at this time

If, however, due to these unprecedented circumstances our school has chosen to close and send our vulnerable children to another school, we will share their contact details with parents and carers, and on the website their Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be identified and shared. Information regarding these children has been shared between our school and theirs in the interests of safeguarding and protecting our children. This information has followed appropriate confidentiality protocols and is in line with the GDPR and Data Protection Act.

Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children

Where our school remain open, the Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are fully aware of their vulnerable children and those they are expecting into school each day, should that child not arrive then the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy will make contact with the parent or carer immediately and if no response contact front door services immediately.

Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will continue to contact vulnerable children and their families if the school is closed or these children are not on site based on a risk assessment of their case, this includes: children the subject of a Child Protection Plan, children who have a Child in Need Plan, Looked After Children (dependent on the child's individual placement needs) or children with an Early Help Plan. Contact will be at least weekly. If there are any issues raised during this time regarding their care, safety or ability to be contacted then the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will follow their local safeguarding procedures and contact their local front door services immediately (as per our Child Protection Policy).

Availability and contact arrangements for families and professionals who wish to make contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies

During these unprecedented circumstances the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be available to be contacted by children, families and other services and agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all our vulnerable children. They can be contacted via the Executive Head teacher, who has shared their mobile number with the Local Authority who are acting as a SPOC in these circumstances. The school telephone number acts as

reserve. Whether they are on or off site the HT will gain contact with any family or professional as soon as possible. All contacts are stored securely on CPOMS.

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day 9am-3.30pm ONLY. Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving calls and messages outside of these times. In the event that children or families need support immediately please contact our front door services immediately (as per the information within the Child Protection Policy) or contact the Police.

Response to safeguarding or child protection concerns

As always our school's duty of care is to keep children safe and while the arrangements of the physical care of children and physical presence of our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies may be different during this time the school's response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school's Child Protection Policy.

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