APPENDIX TO CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY

5th January 2021

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. Based on recent Government advice Whitley Chapel CE First school has decided to open to specific students (as described in the Government's list of vulnerable students) from 06/01/2021 and this addendum provides relevant updates to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Despite the changes, the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is fundamentally the same: **children and young people always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with our established safeguarding procedure**.

This appendix sets out some of the adjustments we are making in line with the changed arrangements in the school and following refreshed guidance to schools in relation to the full opening of schools and contingency arrangements.

https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare

The current school position and local advice

Reporting arrangements

The school arrangements continue in line with our current safeguarding and child protection policy (updated September 2020). All staff should be aware of the designated staff on duty.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Miss Jenny Morgan**

Jenny.morgan@whitleyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk

07935513026

The Deputy DSL is: **Miss Anna Tweddell**

Anna.tweddell@whitleyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk

07817701534

The school's approach ensures the DSL, or a deputy is always available while the school is open. In the unusual circumstance this is not possible the DSL or Deputy DSL will be contactable and the Headteacher will email all staff by 9am to advise they are acting in an on-site safeguarding role together with contact details for the DSL or Deputy DSL who are working off-site.

In an emergency situation, where no DSL is immediately contactable staff should

- **call OneCall to seek advice 01670 536400**

or contact the Schools' Safeguarding team

- **01670 622720**

If there is an emergency where a child has been injured call the emergency services

Staff will continue to follow the Child Protection 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 persistent in referring concerns to the local authority. The arrangements for contacting children's services are:

Reporting your concerns to OneCall in the usual way – 01670 536400

Identifying Vulnerability

Based on our knowledge of the children and young people in school and their individual vulnerabilities we have identified the most vulnerable children.

We have put in place specific arrangements in respect of the following groups, as identified by the DfE as vulnerable

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:

    - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
    - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
    - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
    - those living in temporary accommodation
    - those who are young carers
    - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
    - care leavers
    - any students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health
- Children of key workers may also attend school

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision

Where appropriate each of these children has an individual plan 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.

In addition, the following groups have specific arrangements around contact and support from the school.

- Children at home – parents come to school fortnightly to collect packs of work. Instructions for daily tasks are written for pupils, including means of submitting work on line and communicating with teachers, and links to online lessons. Parents can communicate directly with teachers by email to ask for support if required. The same work is carried out in school with the children of Key workers and is supervised by teachers and TAs who are working on a rota system. This allows teaching staff to see how effective the plans for the pupils' work are and to adapt them if required. Plans are reviewed fortnightly, and parents are invited to drop of completed assignments to school for marking if they wish.

Attendance

The school is following the guidance provided by the government in relation to marking registers and is following register coding advice issued by the Local Authority.

Where a child is expected and does not arrive, the school will follow our attendance procedure and contact the family. If contact is not possible by 9:30am the DSL must be

informed. The DSL will attempt a range of methods to contact the parent **by** telephone, email or text, but if necessary, arrange a home visit by the school or another appropriate agency. A risk assessment will be undertaken to consider and manage the implications of COVID-19 alongside other risks perceived to the child. The risk of COVID-19 **does not override** the duty on the school to ensure children and young people are safe.

The school will also follow the attendance procedure if contact proves impossible with children at home. Home visits are carried out and letters sent, and the EWO is informed about hard to reach pupils.

Guidance from the LA suggests the following should be carried out as a minimum

On a daily basis DSLs should:

• Make sure they know which children on their school roll/AP register have a social worker and/or and EHCP

• Know who to expect at school/provision each day

• If an expected child doesn't arrive then contact home - parent/carer (i.e., carry out the usual reasonable checks for CME)

• If you can't make contact then contact the social worker and education welfare (educationwelfare@northumberland.gov.uk)

If you have significant concerns about a child who is either expected to attend or who is currently at home, then you should contact OneCall in the usual way – 01670 536400.

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 (including recognising the impact of online learning – see below). Staff will be aware of the mental health of both children and their parents and 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, are attending other schools as an interim measure and similar.

When making contact with these families our staff will ask about relationships between learners.

We also address the issue of peer-on-peer abuse in our remote learning curriculum by using Oak Academy RSHE lessons.

Risk online

Young people will be using the internet more during this period. The school may also use online approaches to deliver training or support. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of cyberbullying and other online risks and apply the same child-centred safeguarding practices as when children were learning at the school.

- The school continues to ensure appropriate filters and monitors are in place
- Our governing body will review arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate
- The school has taken on board guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on safe remote learning and guidance for safer working practice from the Safer Recruitment Consortium. We have reviewed the code of conduct and information sharing policy accordingly.
- Staff have discussed the risk that professional boundaries could slip during this exceptional period and been reminded of the school's code of conduct and importance of using school systems to communicate with children and their families.
- Staff have read the 20 safeguarding considerations for livestreaming prior to delivering any live-streamed sessions
- Children and young people accessing remote learning receive guidance on keeping safe online and know how to raise concerns with the school, Childline, the UK Safer Internet Centre and CEOP.
- Parents and carers have received information about keeping children safe online with peers, the school, other education offers they may access and the wider internet community. We have set out the school's approach, including the sites children will be asked to access and set out who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online. Parents have been offered the following links:
    - Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
    - London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
    - Net-aware - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
    - 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
    - UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers
- Free additional support for staff in responding to online safety issues can be accessed from the Professionals Online Safety Helpline at the UK Safer Internet Centre.

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements young people could be at greater risk of abuse from 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, to the safeguarding team.

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 the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged -

Adam Hall, Independent Reviewing Officer & LADO

Direct Line: 01670 623979 General Line: 01670 624888

Email: - adam.hall01@northumberland.gov.uk

If necessary, the school will continue to follow the duty to refer to DBS 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 starters must have an induction before starting or on their first morning with the DSL or a deputy. They must read the school safeguarding and child protection policy, the behaviour policy, the whistleblowing policy and the code of conduct. The DSL or deputy will ensure new recruits know who to contact if worried about a child and ensure the new starters are familiar with the child protection procedure.

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 that setting we will undertake a written risk assessment to determine whether a new DBS would need to be undertaken. It may be in these exceptional times we can rely on the DBS undertaken by their setting.

Our child protection procedures hold strong:

- Volunteers may not be left unsupervised with children until suitable checks have been undertaken. People supervising volunteers must be themselves in regulated activity, able to provide regular, day to day supervision and reasonable in all circumstances to protect the children.
- The school will undertake a written risk assessment on the specific role of each volunteer to decide whether to obtain an enhanced DBS check (with barred list information) for all staff and volunteers new to working in regulated activity in line with DBS guidance.
- When undertaking ID checks on documents for the DBS it is reasonable to initially check these documents online through a live video link and to accept scanned images of documents for the purpose of applying for the check. The actual documents will then be checked against the scanned images when the employee or volunteer arrives for their first day.
- The school will update the Single Central Record of all staff and volunteers working in the school, including those from other settings. This will include the risk assessment around the DBS. A record will be kept by the DSL of who is working in the school each day.

It remains the responsibility of the Governing Body or its equivalent to ensure that the school has a Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and procedures in place that are in accordance with Local Authority guidance and/or locally agreed inter-agency procedures approved by the Local Safeguarding Partnership and this addendum has been ratified by the governing body remotely

Date: 13th January 2021

Names of Governors who ratified this appendix:

Mrs J. Wrighton

Mrs J. Bowyer