

Safeguarding COVID-19

Context

From 20 March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for school to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response or those who are categorised as vulnerable children who absolutely need to attend to ensure their safety as they cannot be cared for safely at home. The policy has been updated to reflect the expectation that from the week commencing 15 June 2020 the government permits schools to welcome back more students in Years 10 and 12 to school.

This addendum to the Formby High School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements as per Government guidelines and in keeping with the primary practice of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019).

This addendum should be read in conjunction with our full Safeguarding and Child Protection policies.

Key Contacts

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| Headteacher | D Mackenzie | dma@formbyhighschool.com |
| Designated Safeguarding Lead | K Blanchard | kbl@formbyhighschool.com |
| Deputy Safeguarding Lead | G Edey | ged@formbyhighschool.com |
| Deputy Safeguarding Lead | S Taylor | sta@formbyhighschool.com |
| Chair of Governors | F Grieveson | f.grieveson@governor.formbyhighschool.com |
| Looked After Children | A Wake | awa@formbyhighschool.com |
| Premises and Facilities Manager | I Westall | i.westall@formbyhighschool.com |
| Designated safeguarding phone number | | 07753 219456 |
| LA Designated Lead Education | T McKeating | 07837863075 tracy.mckeating@sefton.gov.uk |

If in doubt regarding any safeguarding issue please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs K Blanchard, using the mobile phone number provided before school closure.

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.

The school continues to support social workers and the Virtual School to actively promote attendance in school of the vulnerable cohort

- for vulnerable children who have a social worker, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable (see the advice set out by Public Health England on households with possible coronavirus infection and shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as clinically extremely vulnerable).
- for vulnerable children who have an education health and care (EHC) plan, attendance is expected where it is determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment.
- for vulnerable children who are deemed otherwise vulnerable, at the school's or Local Authority's discretion, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable (see the advice set out by Public Health England on households with possible coronavirus infection and shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as clinically extremely vulnerable).

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Leads know the school's most vulnerable children well and are able to identify those who may require a school place who are on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Formby High School will continue to work with and support social workers assigned to our students to help protect the most vulnerable. This includes working with and supporting students' social workers and the Local Authority Virtual School Head (VSH) for looked after and previously looked after children.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting during the re-opening phase. In circumstances where a parent does not want to send their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Formby High School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID-19, Formby High School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent / carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Early Help

Support for Early Help can be accessed from the nearest Sefton Family Well-being Centre:

- North Locality Talbot Street Family Well-Being Centre, St Andrew Place, south PR8 1HR
- Telephone: 01704 534975

Attendance

Formby High School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed. Work will be provided by all staff to ensure, as far as possible, continuity of learning.

- School will resume the attendance register from 15 June 2020 for Years 10 and 12.
- Parents will not be penalised if their child does not attend school.

Where students or any children are in attendance we will submit the daily attendance sheet to the DfE by 12 noon each day.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, school will notify their social worker.

Formby High School will then follow up on any student that they were expecting to attend who does not do so.

When communicating with parents we will confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

If our school does not have a first aider on site during opening hours, we will inform the Local Authority. As a school we will liaise and link with other schools in the local area to ensure we have first aid support/advice.

The DSL or a Deputy will be on site during the reopening phase; if a situation occurs whereby there is no DSL available as a school, we will utilise support from a Designated Lead from another school who would be available by phone or video link. This information will be shared with all staff.

Reporting a Concern – Students

Where a member of staff has a serious concern that a child is at immediate risk of harm they will continue to follow the process outlined in the school's Child Protection Policy.

Staff should be vigilant to any new safeguarding concerns from seeing children during a face to face session and any concerns, however small, should be raised with the Safeguarding Team.

Additional guidance is provided in the DfE guidance entitled Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools to help identify any children who may need additional support. Teachers are reminded of the impact the current circumstances can have on the mental health of those students who are continuing to work for home.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/755135/Mental_health_and_behaviour_in_schools__.pdf

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they will report the concern to the Headteacher. Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors.

Staff will be vigilant for any students who are struggling emotionally or financially with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and will report any concerns to the DSL.

Reporting a Concern – Staff

Staff will be vigilant towards the welfare of each other and share any concerns regarding colleagues with the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Human Resources Officer.

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding Training and induction DSL training will not take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID-19 virus. For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, Mrs Blanchard (Deputy Headteacher) who was trained in October 2019 will act as the trained DSL. Deputy DSL training will commence when school reopens.

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 via email any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Deployment of Staff

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Formby High School, they will continue to be provided with safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to Formby High School, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no on-going disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

When recruiting new staff, Formby High School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in Part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

Formby High School will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult as per Paragraph 163 of KCSIE (2019).

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current national emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that we are aware, on any given day, which staff / volunteers will be in the school and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Formby High School will continue to keep the Single Central Record (SCR) up to date as outlined in Paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Online Safety

Formby High School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Children and Online Safety away from School

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection Policy and, where appropriate, referrals should still be made to children's social care and, as required, the police.

Formby High School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection / GDPR requirements.

The following may be of use to parents in ensuring that the children are safe whilst online at home:

- [internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org) – for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

Considerations for Online / Virtual Lessons

Formby High School has asked staff not to provide virtual lessons during the closure period. Staff must only use the platforms agreed to communicate with students and should never make contact using their own mobile phone number.

Supporting Children not in School

Formby High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. Where the DSL and Pastoral Team have identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral support in school, a robust communication plan has been implemented. Dependent on need, this involves the use of email and voice calls to keep in touch. The responsibility for contacting individual students has been devolved to different members of the Pastoral Team. All individualised contact methods will be recorded through CPOMS using the COVID-19 button.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Formby High School recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances can affect the mental health of students and their parents / carers. Teachers will be aware of this in setting expectations of students' work where they are at home. We will ensure that, where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, appropriate support is in place for them.

Formby High School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.

The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and the staff to student ratio is appropriate in order to maximise safety.

Formby High School 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 hand washing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19.

Where we have concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – this will be discussed immediately with the Headteacher, Sefton Local Authority and, if necessary, the Chair of Governors.

Supporting Children in School

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Formby High School 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.

Formby High School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

Where Formby High School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – we will discuss them immediately with the LA.

To help ensure that the risk of virus spread for both staff and children is as low as possible, we will be:

- telling children, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, not to visit the education or childcare setting if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- ensuring class sizes reflect the numbers of teaching staff available and are kept as small as possible.
- asking parents not to come on to the premises other than to drop off or collect their child
- asking only those staff members on the rota to come into school.
- ensuring all staff and children wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds frequently, and are encouraged not to touch their face, while using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and using bins for tissue waste.
- increasing cleaning of surfaces in classrooms, including desks and handles, and within toilet blocks and changing rooms, adhering to guidance on cleaning of non-healthcare settings. This information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Peer on Peer Abuse

Formby High School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, it will be followed up as per the principles set out in Part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within the school's Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents / carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions will be recorded and appropriate referrals made.

Support will be sought from the Local Authority, if available, to provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively.

Domestic Abuse

We acknowledge that the order to stay at home can cause anxiety for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse is unacceptable in any situation, no matter what stresses you are under. For anyone who feels they are at risk of abuse, it is important to remember that there is help and support available to you:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-and-domestic-abuse/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse>

We will, as a school, contact Sefton Women's and Children Aid (SWACA) to access free confidential support for women, children and young people throughout Sefton who are experiencing domestic abuse. Due to COVID 19 they are offering support via phone and email.

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| SWACA Tel: 0151 922 8606 Text: 07779 745594 Email: help@swaca.com | The team is available: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9.30am – 5.00pm• Wednesday 9.30am – 7.00pm• Friday 9.30am – 3.00pm |
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Mental Health

We recognise that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances can affect the mental health of students and their parents/carers. Teachers at Formby High School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of students' work where they are at home.

At Formby High School we understand as a school that children and young people and their families will be anxious and this can affect children's emotional health and well-being and their overall mental health.

The Government has issued guidance for parents and carers in relation to children and young people's mental health and well-being. This can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Transition

The DSL will ensure that safeguarding information is shared at key transition points (Year 6 into 7 Year 11 into 12) and when a student transfers from another school mid-year.

Formby High School continues to work in partnership with Merseyside Police. We are committed to publishing information produced by Merseyside Police in relation to COVID 19 to protect and safeguard our school community. We will also be reporting to the Police any information we receive as a school that may involve any criminal activity that is taking place including anti-social behaviour outside of school.

Key Contacts Sefton

| NAME | TELEPHONE NUMBER |
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| Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) | 0151 934 4013/ 4481 |
| Early Help Gateway | 0151 934 4037 |
| Out of Hours Service | 0151 934 3555 |
| PREVENT (single point of contact) | 0151 934 3370 |
| Channel Co-ordinator, Paul Storey | 0151 777 8328 |
| Merseyside Police | 101 / emergency 999 |
| Designated Officer Sefton, Tracey Holyhead | 0151 934 3783 |
| Education Safeguarding, Tracy McKeating | 0151 934 3359 |
| Children Missing Education Co-ordinator, Carole Blundell | 0151 934 3181 |
| CAMHS (single point of access) | 0151 282 4527 |
| Bully Busters | 0800 169 6928 |
| Sefton Women & Children's Aid (SWACA) | 0151 922 8606 |
| Independent domestic abuse advisors | 0151 934 5142 |
| VENUS | 0151 474 4744 |
| CATCH 22 CSE/CCE | 0151 934 2535 |
| Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre (RASA) Sefton | 0151 558 1801 |
| Parenting 2000 | 01704 380047 / 0151 932 1163 |
| Housing Options | 0151 934 3541 |
| Addaction | 0151 706 7888 |
| LSCB Business Manager, Deb Hughes | 0151 934 4706 |
| LSCB Administrator, Donna Atkinson | 0151 934 4706 |