



MONK'S WALK
SCHOOL

COVID-19
School closure arrangements
for Safeguarding and Child Protection
at Monk's Walk School

Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This addendum of the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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Key contacts

Role	Name	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Toby Eager-Wright	toeager@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk staysafe@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk
Deputy Safeguarding Leads	Amber Cook Tamara Kirk Ben Farlow Adam Lancaster Justine Skelton	ack@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk takirk@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk befarlo@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk aln@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk juskelt@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk staysafe@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk
Headteacher	Kate Smith	head@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk
Chair of board of trustees	Carole Pomfret	cpomfret@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk
Local Authority Designated Officer		LADO.Referral@hertfordshire.gov.uk
Hertfordshire Children's Services		0300 1234 043

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 in Need or 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 will be risk-assessed 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 Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) 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.

Monk's Walk School will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

The lead person for this will be: Toby Eager-Wright

There is an 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 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 Monk's Walk School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Monk's Walk School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Monk's Walk School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including accessing learning remotely if needed.

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.

Monk's Walk School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Monk's Walk School will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

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

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Monk's Walk School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSLs. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Toby Eager-Wright. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads can be found on page 2.

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing access to CPOMS, and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school.

It is important that all Monk's Walk School staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to speak to them.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all 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 Child Protection Policy, this includes making a concern known via CPOMS, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home, they should email the DSL_group@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk. This will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. If staff cannot make contact with a DSL they should report any concerns with Hertfordshire Children's Services by telephoning 0300 1234 043 and then email DSLs to inform us this has been done with an outline of the concern.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they must report the concern to the headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally via phone and followed up with an email to the headteacher. As the Headteacher is not in school every day, please initiate contact via email and a call will be arranged with you at the earliest convenience.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Carole Pomfret. (see page 2 for contact details)

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

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) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) and our school Child Protection Policy. The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Monk's Walk School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. If necessary, this induction will take place remotely prior to entering the school building.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our 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 ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of Monk's Walk Schools Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Monk's Walk 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) (KCSIE).

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.

Where Monk's Walk School are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Monk's Walk 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. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

Monk's Walk School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Monk's Walk School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Online safety in schools and colleges

Monk's Walk 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 services and as required, the police.

Supporting children not in school

Monk's Walk School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that any communication is recorded on CPOMS.

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

Monk's Walk School recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Staff at Monk's Walk School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Monk's Walk 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.

Supporting children in school

Monk's Walk School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Monk's Walk 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 staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Monk's Walk 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.

Where Monk's Walk School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – will discuss them immediately with the Local Authority.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Monk's Walk School recognises that during the closure additional care may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Peer on Peer Abuse 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.

If there is suspicion of abuse taking place outside of school it will be expected that parents will report concerns not only to the school but to children's services (0300 1234 043) and the police if appropriate.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.