



COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Langdon Park School

School Name: Langdon Park School

Policy owner: Claire Frost (DSL)

Date: 10th April 2020

Date shared with staff: 17th April 20

1. 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 to the Langdon Park School's Safeguarding policy and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Claire Frost	Work: 07776914423	frostc@langdonpark.org safeguarding@langdonpark.org
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Lify Begum	Work: 07776914456	beguml@langdonpark.org safeguarding@langdonpark.org
Headteacher	Nicholas Langham	07918481152	langhamn@langdonpark.org
Chair of Governors	Helen Whitty	07519 436480	helenwitty@btinternet.com
Safeguarding Governor	Paul Bargery		PBargery@tonbridgefederation.co.uk

There is a Safeguarding email address on the website for anyone to make contact: safeguarding@langdonpark.org

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 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 deputy) 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.

Langdon Park 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 Claire Frost (DSL)

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 Langdon Park will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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

Langdon Park will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed. This may be in conjunction with negotiations with the school(s) of siblings, such as local primary schools or hubs.

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.

Langdon Park School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – Langdon Park School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Langdon Park 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 as agreed.

To support the above, Langdon Park School will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

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

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Langdon Park School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Claire Frost 07776914423

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Lify Begum 07776914456

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 or online video - for example when working from home.

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 child protection online management system, 'safeguard' 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 or college.

It is important that all staff and volunteers at Langdon Park School have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of that person is and how to speak to them or report any concerns.

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 Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via 'safeguard' which can be done remotely.

<https://app.safeguard.software/auth.asp?page=login>

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their 'safeguard' from home, they should email the DSL, Deputy DSL and telephone the DSL. If the DSL does not respond the Deputy DSL should be called. This will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are aware of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay directly to the DSL and Deputy DSL as detailed in school policy.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should email the concern to the Headteacher and follow up with a phone call. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headteacher whilst away from

school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Helen Whitty- helenwitty@btinternet.com

Langdon Park will adhere to school and LA policy in the process of managing allegations as detailed in the Child Protection Policy.

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). During weekly briefings staff will receive updates on significant changes to 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 Langdon Park School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

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 on-going disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection 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, Langdon Park 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 Langdon Park 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.

Langdon Park 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.

Langdon Park 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, Langdon Park 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

Langdon Park 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 and college

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.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the Staff code of conduct.

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

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s, groups only
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and the background should be blurred.
- The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms agreed by Langdon Park School to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

Supporting children not in school

Langdon Park 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 a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan and contact with the student and family must be recorded as should a record of contact have made. This will be recorded on the T Drive folder called KIT calls and details of interaction. Any concerns from this should then be recorded as a safeguarding concern on 'safeguard'.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits and requested welfare visits from the local police. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Langdon Park School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

Langdon Park School will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages for all stakeholders.

Langdon Park 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. Teachers at Langdon Park School need to be mindful of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Langdon Park School will ensure that where we care for children of key workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them with regards to whole school policy and practices.

Supporting children in school

Langdon Park School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Langdon Park 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.

Langdon Park 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 COVID19.

Langdon Park 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. The school will only be open if staffing levels and health and safety policy can be adhered to.

Where Langdon Park School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders, the SLT will discuss them and if necessary, the Headteacher will liaise with the local authority.

Peer on Peer Abuse

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

Where the school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, we will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the 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 must be recorded on 'safeguard' and appropriate referrals made.

The Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP)

The Local Authority partners will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively.

Additional Advice and Guidance

[DFE guidance on vulnerable children Covid-19](#)

[Social Distancing in School Settings](#)

[closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers March 2020](#)

