

**Abbey Gate College
Whole School including EYFS**



**7a - Addendum to 'Safeguarding Policy' – Coronavirus
(COVID-19)**

Reviewed: January 2021 (HNM)

Governor Review: January 2021 (AG)

Next Review: January 2022 (HNM)

Authorised and approved on behalf of the Board of Governors by:

Mr A Grime - Chair of Governors

This is designed to provide information about safeguarding our pupils in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. This will be regularly reviewed and updated in line with guidance as issued to educational settings from the Government, Local Authority and the Police.

Our commitment to the safeguarding of our pupils will continue to be a priority and as such our safeguarding principles, as detailed in the main 'Safeguarding Policy' will remain the same.

These can be summarised:

- The best interests of children will continue to be our priority.
- If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child they should take action and act immediately.
- Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (Nerys Moses) and Deputy Safeguarding Leads (Louise Poyser – Senior School & Corinna Travis I&J) will continue to support College and pupils with any safeguarding queries and contact details are available in the main policy.
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online.

Child Protection

College is making provision for pupils with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans in accordance with local authority guidelines.

Where College is providing care for the children of 'Key Workers', a member of the Leadership Team is on site together with a trained first aider and additional staff – numbers are adjusted daily depending upon the number and ages of the children on site. Where the DSL or DDSL is not on site, they are immediately available on telephone or video call if required.

Where appropriate, College continues to work with outside agencies to provide support and protection for vulnerable children.

Attendance

Arrangements have been made with parents who are 'key workers' to ensure that College is aware of who to expect in College on a day to day basis. Arrangements have also been made with these families to assist with travel arrangements as normal bus services are not in operation. The 'daily online attendance form' is completed in accordance with requirements of Department of Education.

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, Abbey Gate College 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 (2020) (KCSIE).

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

Where Abbey Gate College 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.

Abbey Gate College 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.

Abbey Gate College follows a rigorous and thorough checking procedure when recruiting staff and this is detailed in our 'Safeguarding Policy' and 'Safer Recruitment Policy'. These will remain in force.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the pandemic, 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, Abbey Gate College will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Volunteers

Abbey Gate College will use volunteers to assist in handing out and securing COVID-19 test kits to students and staff members. Other duties may be required such as building test kits, cleaning down areas and directing people.

Under no circumstances will a volunteer in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Volunteers who, on an unsupervised basis provide personal care on a one-off basis in Abbey Gate College, will be in regulated activity. This means that if a volunteer is administering a COVID-19 test whilst un-supervised, they will be in regulated activity and therefore require an Enhanced DBS with Barred List check.

Existing volunteers in regulated activity do not have to be re-checked if they have already had a DBS check (which includes barred list information).

Supervision must be:

- by a person who is in regulated activity.
- regular and day to day; and
- reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children.

In appointing volunteers, the school will follow safer recruitment processes.

Mental Health

Abbey Gate College takes great pride in educating and supporting pupils in understanding and looking after both physical and mental health. This current climate will inevitably put different pressures on individuals and as a College we are committed to:

- Keeping in touch with everyone. Both academic work, social and emotional wellbeing resources are on the College's VLE.
- If a member of staff has a concern about a pupil, they should raise this concern with the DSL/DDSL and appropriate action can be taken.
- A Year group Forum has been set up to enable pupils to keep in contact with each other and staff.

Online Safety

All work set by College is through the College's Firefly VLE which is filtered and monitored.

Online teaching operates within the same principles that are set out in the College's Staff Behaviour Policy/Code of Conduct. Where it might be appropriate for College to consider developing the use of further online learning tools and systems, this will be in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements and clear guidelines will be issued to staff and pupils. Procedures will be included to ensure that there is a clear reporting route back to College for any concerns as well as Childline/UK Safer Internet Centre/CEOP.

At the point of school closure being announced by Government, parents were issued with detailed information about how they could support their children at home: 'School Closure – advice to parents handbook'.

Further support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online:

[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.

[Parent Zone](#) – for resources to keep children safe online.