



THE HURST

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**COVID-19 School Closure
Arrangements for Safeguarding and
Child Protection at
The Hurst Community College**

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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 of The Hurst Community College Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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2. DSL Team and Contact Details.

If a member of the Safe Guarding Team is not on site, they can be contacted via the SLT member on site, or email at all times.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

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Deputies

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3.Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker, for instance those on a Child Protection Plan or Child In Need Plan. 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. It also includes those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

The parents of those with EHCPs will be contacted 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. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals is not a determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are. The Hurst will encourage our vulnerable student to attend a school, including remotely if decided appropriate.

The Hurst 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 Wellbeing Team will keep in regular contact (weekly) with any of these students who are accessing school remotely. A record of this will be made on CPOMs. Any relevant information will be communicated to the appropriate social worker.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19 and it is considered a priority that the child should attend, one of The Wellbeing Team or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

4.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.

The Hurst and the appropriate social worker will agree with parents/carers whether the pupil should be attending school, one of the Wellbeing Team or the social worker will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

To support the above, The Hurst 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 LAC student or student on a Child Protection or Child in Need Plan does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, a member of the Wellbeing Team will contact their social worker and make a record of this on CPOMS.

5.Designated Safeguarding Lead

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site and making contact with one of the

DSL team should it become necessary. CPOMs will be managed either on site or remotely at all times by the DSL team.

It is important that all staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL. All staff will be made aware that if the DSL is not on site that day, any concerns will be taken to the on site SLT member who will contact the DSL.

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

6.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 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 Designated Safeguarding Lead or one of the DSL Team. This will ensure that the concern is received.

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 should notify the Head Teacher as set out in the Child Protection Policy. 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.

7.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). 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 The Hurst, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

8. Online safety in schools and colleges

The Hurst 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.

9. 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 school code of conduct.

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

When communicating with students staff should use Edulink or their school email address, they shouldn't use their personnel email address.

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons or teacher parent/ meetings, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s with students, groups only unless you have spoken to DSL and set out special circumstances such as English Speaking and Listening Exam or SEND extra support where a 1:1 setting is more appropriate. As with group tutorials you must record these sessions.
- 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.
- The live class or meeting 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 that are designated appropriate by The Hurst which is Microsoft Teams.

10. Supporting children not in school

The Hurst 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. As stated previously, at The Hurst, The Wellbeing Team will keep in regular contact (weekly) with any of these students who are accessing school remotely. A record of this will be made on CPOMs. Any relevant information will be communicated to the appropriate social worker.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits.

11. Supporting children in school

The Hurst is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

The Hurst 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.

The Hurst 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. The Hurst 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.

A member of the Senior Leadership Team and a trained first aider will always be on site.

12. Peer on Peer Abuse

During the closure a revised process 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 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 CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.