



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy COVID-19 Annex

January 2021

This document should be read in conjunction with the 'Whole School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy'

Cranford House is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This commitment remains the same during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whether the school is open to all pupils, partially open or closed with Guided Home Learning in operation, the principles and practices of the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education, the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and the Cranford House Safeguarding Procedures (including the Code of Conduct) will continue to apply.

In order to ensure the safety and welfare of children, the school will also adhere to the latest DfE guidance, together with other relevant guidance and advice as this is published and updated.

In practice, the following procedures will apply:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

There will always be either the DSL or a nominated Deputy DSL available, either on site or contactable by phone or online video. Where a DSL or Deputy is not on site a senior leader will take responsibility for safeguarding on site if the School is open. Deputy DSLs have the knowledge and ability to cover any Covid-19 related online safeguarding issues in the absence of the DSL.

The name and contact details of the 'duty' DSL will be shared with staff via the headmaster's daily Staff Teams message prior to the start of each working day.

Pupils or parents with a safeguarding concern should email Mrs Stewart (astewart@cranfordhouse.net) who will respond to any concerns within 24 hours during term time or forward the concern to the 'duty' DSL or Deputy DSL.

Vulnerable Children:

The School will continue to work with and support children's social workers and local authority virtual school heads to help protect vulnerable children. This will include liaising with relevant providers and ensuring that vulnerable children and those on the edge of receiving social care support can attend school where appropriate and can access additional pastoral support if they are unable to attend school.

If instructed to close on public health advice, the school will contact the local authority to discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable children.

Pupils and Staff on-site:

The school will ensure that the School site will continue to be a safe place for children and staff:

Safeguarding will be a key consideration of all risk assessments carried out.

The School will continue to use relevant guidance published by the Government, Public Health England and the Health and Safety Executive to inform arrangements and decision making to ensure the school remains safe for pupils and staff.

Appropriate staff will always be on site to maximise safety, and the School will maintain a record of all staff/volunteers on site on any given day. Everyone on site will know how to contact the DSL(s), deputy DSL(s) and First Aiders. The school will maintain a record of all staff/volunteers on site on any given day

Attendance:

The school acknowledges that attendance issues may be an indicator of safeguarding concerns.

Pupils, both on-site and learning remotely, will be registered and the School will follow up on any absence. Where a vulnerable child does not attend, the School will also notify their social worker, where applicable. No one with Covid-19 symptoms should come into School for any reason.

Remote Online Learning:

The School will provide a safe environment for online learning. All pupils and staff must remind themselves of and adhere strictly to the 'Acceptable Use Agreements' and Online Safety Policy, Guided Home Learning Policy including any Covid-19 extensions to these policies.

Pastoral Support:

The school recognises that school can be a protective factor for children and young people, and that the current circumstances could affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Staff will be in regular contact with pupils and will continue to be vigilant for signs of safeguarding risk or emotional distress. During the Covid-19 pandemic there will be a particular focus on ensuring Pastoral support for all pupils remains at the forefront of the schools planning and provision. The school's provision will provide pupils with support to help them to respond to issues linked to coronavirus, improve their mental and physical health, and maintain social connections.

Safeguarding concerns should be reported to the DSL as outlined above. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. The revised statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 highlights the fact that mental health problems can be an indicator of a safeguarding concern. Where a pupil is known to the school or newly identified as being in need, the DSL will ensure that a communication and support plan is in place for that child. This may include email, phone or online video contact. The plan will be reviewed regularly and should concerns arise the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

Pastoral concerns will be addressed initially by the class teacher or tutor, who may involve the pastoral team or School Matron depending on the nature of the issue.

All safeguarding will be logged on MyConcern in the usual manner. All pastoral concerns will be logged on Teams in the usual manner. Relevant information will be shared appropriately so that all relevant staff are aware of the support needs or child protection issues of the children in their care.

Pupils or parents with a pastoral concern should contact their Class Teacher in the Junior School or Form tutor/ Head of Year in the Senior School, via email, in the first instance.

Where a pupil is already known to the School as being in need or is in receipt of pastoral-type support in School, the DSL will ensure that a communication and support plan is in place for that child to ensure pastoral support remains in place and pastoral records remain up to date. This may include email, phone or online

video contact. The plan will be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

Where children move between schools, welfare and child protection information will be shared as required.

Working in Partnership:

The school continue to work closely with our local safeguarding partners and other local agencies.