

## **Child protection and safeguarding: COVID-19 addendum**

### **Safeguarding during Covid-19 Pandemic**

In line with Government advice Marling School closed to most students at the end of the school day on Friday 20 March 2020. The government instructed all schools to remain open from Monday 23 March 2020 for students in the following categories:

- Students of key workers critical to the national Covid-19 pandemic response, who are unable to stay safely at home
- Students who are vulnerable
- Students with an EHCP

This is an addendum to the Marling Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and gives detail regarding the safeguarding arrangements at the school during the Covid-19 pandemic

Contacts:

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Rob Reid	01453 760152 07763 546026	<a href="mailto:rgr@marling.gloucs.sch.uk">rgr@marling.gloucs.sch.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Glen Balmer	01453 762251	<a href="mailto:gcb@marling.gloucs.sch.uk">gcb@marling.gloucs.sch.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Andy Wilson	01453 762251	<a href="mailto:arw@marling.gloucs.sch.uk">arw@marling.gloucs.sch.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Stuart Wilson	01453 762251	<a href="mailto:ssw@marling.gloucs.sch.uk">ssw@marling.gloucs.sch.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Heidi Vinton	01453 762251	<a href="mailto:hav@marling.gloucs.sch.uk">hav@marling.gloucs.sch.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Ruth Woodley	01453 762251	<a href="mailto:rxw@marling.gloucs.sch.uk">rxw@marling.gloucs.sch.uk</a>
Safeguarding Governor	Rebecca Castledine	01453 762251	<a href="mailto:admin@marling.gloucs.sch.uk">admin@marling.gloucs.sch.uk</a>
Out of Hours (Daytime during school holidays)	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	01452 426565	<a href="https://www.gsce.org.uk/contact-gsce-and-sign-up-for-gsce-alerts/">https://www.gsce.org.uk/contact-gsce-and-sign-up-for-gsce-alerts/</a>
Out of Hours (Bank Holiday, Evening and weekend)	MASH Emergency Duty Team	01452 614194	<a href="https://www.gsce.org.uk/contact-gsce-and-sign-up-for-gsce-alerts/">https://www.gsce.org.uk/contact-gsce-and-sign-up-for-gsce-alerts/</a>

### **Vulnerable Students**

DfE guidance defines vulnerable students as those:

- who have a social worker, which will include students on a Child Protection Plan (CP), those on a Child in Need Plan (CIN) and those who are Students in care (CiC)
- who have an EHC Plan.

For all students who have a social worker there is an expectation that they will attend school. However, everyone is being asked to stay at home and this includes these students – as long as it is safe to do so. Marling School cannot insist these students are in school but the school must ensure these students remain safe and they will be contacted by the pastoral team and the school will liaise with social services and other lead professionals throughout the Covid-19 pandemic period.

For the majority of students with EHCPs it will be safer for them to stay at home, Where a child with an EHCP will be better supported in school, the school will make all ‘reasonable endeavours’ to continue to maintain the provision in their plan. Where this is not possible, the school will consider each case individually and agree with the parents on the best course of action. The SEN team are best placed to make this assessment and will continue to monitor the needs of all students on EHCPs throughout the Covid-19 pandemic period.

### **Attendance**

Education settings do not need to complete their usual day to day attendance processes to follow up non-attendance, however all students who attend Marling School during the Covid-19 pandemic period (because they are either vulnerable or they are students of key workers) will be entered on the daily attendance sheet submitted to the DfE and GCC by 12pm each day. Marling school is maintaining a list of students who are due to attend each day and any students who does not attend will be followed up upon. In the case of any child with a social worker who was expected to attend and does not, the social worker will be informed.

### **Safeguarding Team and Reporting a Concern**

All school staff will continue to have full access to the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Staff should continue to report concerns to the DSLs, immediately and without any delay.

During school hours the DSLs can be contacted by phone (voicemail messages available) or preferably by email, and out of hours access is available to the Multi Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and to the MASH duty team. Staff should pass on concerns to the DSLs. DSLs will then log this information on CPOMS and liaise with the relevant agency as appropriate. DSLs will continue to work with student’s social workers, carry out statutory assessments and attend all multi agency meetings, if necessarily remotely.

### **Safeguarding Training and Induction**

All existing staff will already have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of KCSIE. All staff have been reminded of the procedures to report any safeguarding concerns during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter the school, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff are redeployed from another school the school will judge, on a case-by-case basis, the level of safeguarding induction required. In most cases, the existing workforce will already have received appropriate safeguarding training and all they will require is a copy of the school’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 school's workforce or gain access to students. If the school is recruiting new staff, it will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of 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 the school is 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.

Regarding members of the school workforce already engaging in regulated activity and who already have the appropriate DBS check, there is no expectation that a new DBS check will be obtained where that member of the workforce temporarily moves to another school to support the care of students. The type of setting on the DBS check, for example a specific category of school, is not a barrier. The same principle applies if childcare workers move to work temporarily in the school setting. The receiving institution will risk assess as they would for a volunteer. Whilst the onus remains on the school to satisfy ourselves that someone in the setting has had the required checks, including as required those set out in part 3 of KCSIE, in the above scenario this can be achieved via seeking assurance from the current employer rather than requiring new checks.

The school will continue to follow its 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.

The schools 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 will be made by emailing [Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk).

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current environment, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that the 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, the 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 School**

The school will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. The school will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect students when they are online on the school IT systems. The school will ensure staff have the technical knowledge to maintain safe IT arrangements.

## **Students and Online Safety Away from School**

It is important that all staff who interact with students, 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.

### **Supporting Students not in School**

Marling school continues its commitment to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all its students

Where Students would have been identified as needing pastoral support short of social services intervention, regular contact will be maintained by the pastoral team. Contact with such students will be recorded by the pastoral team using SIMS and CPOMS.

Contact will be reviewed regularly and if any concerns arise, the DSLs and pastoral staff will review and amend contacts as appropriate.

Safeguarding information is provided on the school website

Marling School understands that school is a potential protective factor for students and that the circumstances of the current Covid-19 pandemic may affect the mental health of students, parents and staff. Teachers are aware of this and the amount and nature of work being set to do at home. Students will be encouraged to access both remote learning and pastoral support in order to support them in their education at this time.

### **Supporting Students in School**

Marling School continues its commitment to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all its students

Marling School will continue to be safe space for identified students to attend and learn during the Covid-19 pandemic period. Marling School will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staffing ratio numbers are appropriate to maximise safety. A qualified first aider will be on site at all times.

Marling School will continue to follow government advice for education settings on how to implement social distancing and the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the spread of Covid-19