



**COVID-19 SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION SECOND POLICY UPDATE (TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ATLP'S MAIN POLICY)**

The ATLP Trust Board review this policy annually. The policy was last reviewed in October 2019.

However, the Trust Board has authorised Sue Bailey (Safeguarding Lead) and Nicky Lawton (Data Protection Officer) to accept updates on matters of detail in between reviews. These changes would normally be listed in the codicil at the end of the policy.

Whereas the policy has not changed in its fundamental function, that is to keep our children safe, the changes are not matters of detail and consequently an addendum has been created rather than an extensive list in a codicil.

However, in line with good practice this addendum has been approved by the Chair of the Trust under the emergency powers entrusted to him.

The addendum has been used to update the policy following updates from the DfE on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and in line with DfE Covid 19 Safeguarding in Schools, Colleges as well as guidance from other providers including Birmingham Children's Trust, Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Children's Safeguarding Board, Warwickshire Children's Safeguarding Board and Solihull Safeguarding Board.

**A second addendum to update the policy has now been added in light of updated guidance issued on May 20<sup>th</sup> in relation to a phased return to school for greater numbers of children as from June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**The date for children to return within The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership will be set by the Trust.**

**In line with DfE guidance we shall also make provision for children who are vulnerable and those children whose parents are critical to the COVID -19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.**

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### **1. Version control and dissemination**

This is version 2.0 of this addendum. It will be reviewed by our Safeguarding Lead on a weekly basis or as circumstances continue to evolve or following any updated advice from the DfE. It will be made available on each school's website and will be shared with all staff.

We will ensure that on any given day all staff and volunteers in attendance will be aware of who the DSL and deputy DSLs are and how staff and volunteers can to speak to them.

### **2. Safeguarding priority**

#### **Our Safeguarding priorities will remain the same**

The following fundamental safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children continue to come first.
- if anyone in our school has a safeguarding concern, they will act immediately.

- a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy DSL will always be available.
- no unsuitable people will be allowed to gain access to children.
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online.
- Our work in safeguarding children continues to be underpinned by Keeping Children Safe in Education and The Prevent Duty as well as the guidance from Birmingham Children's Trust, Warwickshire Children's Safeguarding Board and Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Children's Safeguarding Board (latest edition in each case).

### **3. Context**

**This is the second addendum to The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership (ATLP) Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy** in response to the guidance issued on May 20<sup>th</sup> and designed to enable schools to welcome more children back from June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **4. Preparing for return**

ATLP will determine when and how its schools will reopen their doors to the children.

This will follow a period of risk assessments and health and safety reviews. ATLP will ensure that this process takes into account and links with other policies in school including the safeguarding procedures outlined in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Neither shall stand-alone but all policies and procedures will take account of each other. As such they will be shared with the appropriate staff to ensure this joined up approach happens.

### **5 Vulnerable children**

**ATLP will continue to define vulnerable children as laid out in the first addendum to this policy. However, we recognise that following this period of challenge there may be children whose circumstances have changed and so we will constantly review our vulnerable children's list in order to reflect these changes. ATLP will encourage all its vulnerable children to be in school and work with other agencies to support those families for whom this is not possible.**

## **6. DSL's**

**DSL's will ensure that the safeguarding information we have recorded on our systems is up to date and accurate. We recognise that circumstances might have changed for some children and it is important that school is aware of any significant changes.**

**ATLP will encourage parents/ carers to share such information with us and use every opportunity to check parental contact details are correct.**

Wherever possible at least one DSL will be on site. DSL's may be accessed via a telephone or video link or from another ATLP school if necessary. If a DSL is not on site a Senior Leader should take on this role. All staff must be aware of how to contact a DSL during these challenging times. This is especially important where there has been a change in DSL's.

ATLP will ensure that DSL's have the capacity to continue to support both staff and students within school.

DSL'S will continue to work with other agencies to support vulnerable children and encourage attendance where appropriate.

ATLP will encourage its DSLs to keep themselves up to date and to pay special attention to the key challenges during lock down. This has included a rise in abuse in the home, domestic violence and county lines.

DSL's will also consider how best to support those children not in school and deemed to be vulnerable.

DSL's are asked to take into account that wherever possible staff should speak directly to children to help identify any concerns.

## **7. Safeguarding training and Induction**

ATLP is aware that as more children return to school there may be a significant increase in disclosures. Many of these may be new disclosures, as such all staff will be reminded of the signs and indicators of abuse and how to raise a concern.

It is essential that all new staff undergo their safeguarding training and are made aware how to contact a DSL and raise a concern.

All staff should be reminded as to what they should do if they have a concern about another member of staff or volunteer (part 4 of KCSiE).

All staff are encouraged to be alert to the indicators of poor mental health, peer on peer abuse (part 5 of KCSiE) and to take every opportunity to remind children how to stay safe online.

ATLP will also continue to support families by signposting them to other sources of information and support via the school website and newsletters.

### **8. Safer Recruitment**

ATLP will follow Safer Recruitment guidance as previously stated in KCSiE (part 3) as well the new guidance from the DBS on standard and enhanced DBS ID checks and from the Home Office on right to work checks.

Staff who have not been in a regulated activity for 3 months due to the lock down will not need a new DBS.

ATLP will ensure that if staff or volunteers move between sites, they are familiar with any site specific safeguarding guidance and will ensure their suitability to work with children.

ATLP will keep an accurate log of which staff are on site every day and ensure that standard recruitment checks are in place. ATLP will not advise schools to use the Single Central Record to do this.