



## ADDENDUM TO SAFEGUARDING POLICY: COVID 19 Updated August 2021

### **1.0 Introduction**

Wexham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This commitment remains the same in the difficult circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 outbreak, however the principles and practices of the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy continue to apply.

In order to ensure the safety and welfare of children whilst working in extraordinary circumstances, the School will adhere to the DfE Coronavirus guidance which is to be found at <http://safeguarding.info/covid19safeguarding>

### **2.0 Safeguarding**

During the period where students may be self-isolating at home, either the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Child Protection Officer or the Headteacher will be available on site during School opening hours. Students or parents / carers with a safeguarding concern should contact the School, either by email or telephone.

### **3.0 Vulnerable Students**

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker, those who are looked after by the Local Authority and those children and young people, up to the age of 25 with Education, Health and Care [EHC] plans. A child may also be defined as vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need, or otherwise meet the definition in Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

The School will continue to work with and support students' Social Workers and the Local Authority Virtual School 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.

The Safeguarding Team will continue to make Children's Social Services and Early Help referrals.

### **4.0 Students and Staff on Site**

The School will continue to be a safe place for students to attend. The School has completed a comprehensive Risk Assessment, in-line with DfE and PHE guidance, to ensure that appropriate staff are on site to maximise student safety and well-being.

Students on site will be registered daily. The School will follow up on students expected to attend. Where a vulnerable child does attend, or ceases to attend, the School will notify their social worker.

## **5.0 Pastoral Support**

We are aware that School is a protective factor for many children and young people and that the current circumstances could affect the mental health of students and their parents. A register of students who may be vulnerable or require particular support will be compiled so that regular contact with students and their families is maintained and recorded. Staff involved in making regular contact will continue to be vigilant for signs of safeguarding risk or emotional distress and make referrals using the School's established procedures. Safeguarding concerns should be reported to the DSL as outlined. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Current circumstances could affect the mental health of students and their families. Concerns about mental health and well-being must be reported, following the School's Safeguarding protocols to ensure the wellbeing of the young person.

All safeguarding and pastoral concerns will be logged. Students or parents/ carers with a pastoral concern should telephone or email to make contact.

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

We will be keeping a log of all calls made to all parents. Our expectation is a weekly call to those who have a social worker or an EHC plan where they are not in school. Risk Assessments have been conducted for student not in school. Pastoral teams will also make and log calls to all their students but this will be less frequent.

## **6.0 Online Safety**

The School will continue to provide a safe environment for its students, including online. School computers and IT equipment being used off site have online filtering installed. Staff interacting with students should be alert to concerns around online safety and report these following Safeguarding procedures.

## **7.0 Working in Partnership**

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