



Child Protection and Safeguarding: COVID-19 Pupil's returning to School

Please note due to the nature of the current situation this document is subject to change.

In addition to this document there is the Windermere School Safeguarding Policy, Child Protection and Safeguarding Covid 19 - Addendum and 4 Appendices listed on the website. These are subject to change in light of advice from the government and their advisory bodies.

- *Safeguarding Policy*
- *Child Protection and Safeguarding Covid 19 – Addendum*
- *Appendix 1 – Staff Safeguarding Expectations for Remote Learning*
- *Appendix 2 – Pupil Safeguarding Expectations for Remote Learning*
- *Appendix 3 – Parent Safeguarding Expectations for Remote Learning*
- *Appendix 4 – Remote Learning and Pastoral Support in more detail*



General statement

The Windermere School Safeguarding Policy and Covid-19 Addendum remains in place throughout periods of School based learning, remote learning and blended learning on-line in light of the current requirements in response to Covid-19. Windermere School will continue to have regard to the KCSIE as required by legislation. Windermere School will continue to review the Expectation documents for Staff, pupils and parents in response to the pandemic. Any updates to policy and procedure in the light of Covid-19 will be communicated to all staff.

It is essential that Windermere School remain a safe place for all pupils.

As children begin to return to Windermere School, a number of safeguarding principles remain the same.

- The best interests of children must always continue to come first.
- If anyone at Windermere School has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act and act immediately.
- Any concerns must be referred to the DSL.
- It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children.
- Every effort must be made to keep children protected when they are online.

Considerations to be made for the return to School

In light of children returning from 1 June 2020, the following must be considered:

- Staff may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they see them in person following partial school closures.
- Staff must be more alert and know what to do if they have any concerns about a child, including new concerns where children are returning.
- The continued importance of all staff acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns, including new concerns where children are returning.
- DSLs may require more time to support staff and children regarding new concerns and any necessary referrals as appropriate, as more children return.
- The importance of ensuring relevant safeguarding and welfare information held on all children (including returning children) remains accurate. Windermere School will do all they reasonably can to ask parents and carers to advise them of any



changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that they should be aware of before a child returns.

- DSLs arrangements. Where the DSL is not on the school premises, they will be working remotely and will be available to attend the Windermere School in person, as required during the School's working hours.
- Windermere School will continue to protect vulnerable children both within the School and whilst working remotely.
- Windermere School will continue to have regard to the expectations of remote and blended learning for the children in their care.
- Windermere School will adhere to any changes in arrangements by the local authority regarding Safeguarding procedures and referrals.
- Windermere School will follow any updated advice received from the local authority regarding children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need.
- Windermere School will continue to work with and support children's social workers and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners.

Responsibilities of the DSL

As children begin to return to Windermere School, a trained DSL will be available on site. Where this is not possible, the DSL can be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home. The DSL will then be able to travel immediately into School.

When the DSL is not on-site, the Head of Elleray will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding and contacting the DSL when they are required in School. The handling of any Child Protection Files and communications with Safeguarding agencies will be carried out by the DSL, either remotely or on the School site.

All staff will continue to have access to the DSL. Staff working on-site will know how to contact the DSLs or will know to inform the Head of Elleray should they need to speak with the DSL in the case of the DSL is working remotely.

The DSL will provide support to teachers and pastoral staff to ensure that contact is maintained with children (and their families) who are not yet returning to school. Where possible staff will continue to speak directly to children via Teams to help identify any concerns. Staff should be encouraged (where possible) to make calls from the school or via school phones and devices. Where staff use personal phones to make calls, they will withhold their personal number in-line with the Expectations of Staff document (See Appendix 1 – Staff Expectations for Remote Learning, available on the School website).

The DSL will continue to do what they reasonably can to keep up to date with safeguarding developments, such as via safeguarding partners, newsletters and professional advice groups. DSLs are to explore online training to refresh their training.



The DSL will consider the unique challenges Windermere School faces at this time, especially when they begin to welcome back more children. Where reasonably possible and where relevant, the DSL will consider these challenges in a child protection context and reflect them in the child protection policy, procedures, or addendums as appropriate.

Vulnerable children

Windermere School (supported by the DSLs and Head of Learning Support) will continue to work with and support children's social workers and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners to help protect vulnerable children.