



## Southridge First School

### **Appendix to Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy – for use during the Coronavirus**

The principles in [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\)](#) and this guidance continue to apply.

#### **Key Points -**

- The Headteacher will check the school email box daily in case any concerns are raised by parents or in the event of any operation encompass alerts
- If anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- A DSL or deputy should be available – if Mr Willcock (DSL) is not on rota in the school building then he or Mrs Hall (Dep DSL) are available on their mobile phone. In the event of an emergency or being unable to contact them and advice is needed, staff should call the **MASH professionals help line** on **0191 643 5555** between 8:30am and 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8:30am to 4:30pm on Fridays.
- If a safeguarding referral is needed (MASH advice line can support this decision), staff should ring the **Front Door number** on **0345 2000 109**. (If you haven't already heard of the MASH advice line, it was recently developed as a dedicated telephone advice line to safeguarding professionals and will be a fantastic support to those still in school who need to safeguard pupils, especially those who are not usually a DSL. The aim is to assist professionals in coming to an informed decision about whether a safeguarding referral should be made, or other action taken. **The telephone line is only available to safeguarding professionals and is not intended for family members, carers or members of the general public.**)
- It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children – no unknown people should be allowed in to Southridge without authorisation from the Headteacher (Sue Hall), Deputy Head (Finn Willcock) or Assistant Head (Sharon McIntosh).
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online – (see further information below). If you have any concerns about a child who is not physically attending school, especially online then you should ring the Headteacher or DSL (Mr Willcock) and speak to them about your concerns. You must follow this by reporting these concerns in writing via email using the initials of the child in the email.
- School and college staff should continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This will be especially important during the COVID-19 period.
- Attendance - The Department for Education has introduced a [daily online attendance form](#) to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. A member of the office staff will complete this daily and submit the information to the DfE and the Local Authority. If children who are on our daily list do not attend school please contact the Headteacher in the first instance and then ring the parents to establish their whereabouts. (During the Coronavirus – it could simply be that working patterns have changed / symptoms have developed)

- Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current environment, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school or college 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, schools and colleges must continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.
- Mental Health - Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Teachers should be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

### **On-line Learning -**

It will be more important than ever that schools and colleges provide a safe environment, including online. Schools and colleges should continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems (read [guidance on what "appropriate" looks like](#)) are in place to protect children when they are online on the school or college's IT systems or recommended resources. All schools and colleges should consider the safety of their children when they are asked to work online. The starting point for online teaching should be that the same principles as set out in the school's or college's staff behaviour policy (sometimes known as a code of conduct). This policy should amongst other things include acceptable use of technologies, staff pupil/student relationships and communication including the use of social media.

Schools and colleges should ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements

Schools and colleges are likely to be in regular contact with parents and carers. Those communications should be used to reinforce the importance of children being safe online. It will be especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and be clear who from the school or college (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online.

### **Emergency Situations and Police -**

Please remember that Children's services cannot provide an immediate response. If an incident occurs that requires the emergency services, please call 999 as usual. You can also call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response.

In addition, Tim Cousins is the School Safeguarding Liaison Officer and can put schools in touch with their local Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT) if any advice or guidance is needed on policing matters. Tim can be contacted by emailing [Tim.Cousins.4654@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Tim.Cousins.4654@northumbria.pnn.police.uk) or by calling 07736193235