

*\*Information to be added by individual Trust school as appropriate*

*(a copy to be provided on individual school websites)*

# **Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust**



## **Child Protection Policy COVID-19 Addendum**

**March 2020**

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, parents and carers were asked to keep their children at home while all schools closed to the majority of students. Schools are partially open only to cater for children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response or those who are considered vulnerable and cannot be kept safe at home due to a parent or carer working.

Throughout the COVID-19 closure, the priority of the school remains to ensure that the best interests and safety of the children comes first.

### **Reporting a concern about a child**

All staff are trained to use MyConcern to report a safeguarding concern and follow up with an email or telephone call to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. In the event of an immediate safeguarding concern, all staff are aware of how to make a referral or to seek the appropriate advice for themselves. Staff are aware that they can refer or seek advice about any child, not just those attending a Trust school. A DSL or Deputy DSL will always be on call during school opening hours. The DSL contact details are available on the school website should a parent, carer or other adult need to get in touch to raise a concern. Where the provision available to students is at a hub school within the trust, a school DSL will always be on call.

### **Staffing throughout COVID-19 closure**

All staff supervising and working with children during the school closure will be subject to the necessary safeguarding checks as is standard. The necessary detail will be recorded on the Single Central Record. Other adults will not be permitted to be onsite working with students. The leadership team will ensure that they are aware of all adults on site and that all the necessary checks have taken place.

### **Online working**

Students will access google classrooms. The classrooms have been set up and security checked by the AAAT IT team. The necessary filters will remain in place for all students and staff using school computers. Students and staff may only communicate via google classroom and school email. The Trust will ensure the use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data GDPR requirements. Staff will follow the same principles for online teaching as with in school teaching as set out in the Staff Code of Conduct and the Teachers' Standards.

### **Meetings**

All meetings for children in need, children subject to a child protection plan, those with an EHCP, children in care or children previously in care will, where realistically possible, go ahead via conference calling. A DSL or SENCO (whichever is most appropriate) will attend. Other non-essential meetings will be rescheduled as appropriate. The DSLs and SENCO will remain in contact with outside agencies as appropriate.

### **Reporting a concern about a member of staff**

If staff or volunteers have concerns about a member of staff who may pose a safeguarding risk to children, they must immediately contact the Headteacher, Head of School or DSL. The NSPCC whistleblowing advice line can also be contacted on 0800 028 0285 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) If staff or volunteers are worried about the welfare of a member of staff, they should raise this immediately with the Headteacher, Head of school or DSL. The Headteacher, Head of School or DSL will take immediate action in line with guidance.

**Contact with students, parents and carers**

The school will contact parents and carers, at least weekly via email, telephone or text message. The school will also use social media pages for sharing of news. Students will keep in regular contact with teachers via google classrooms. School email is also available for all students (and parents) to contact school staff. The pastoral team will support by making regular contact with parents, carers and students as appropriate.

**Supporting children not in school**

The Trust is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of all its students. Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of outside agency support or would normally receive pastoral support in school, a robust communication plan is in place for that student. A contact log is kept centrally and updated daily. The contact log is monitored by the DSL. Contact can be via email, telephone or google classroom and is reviewed at least weekly. Where concerns arise, the DSL will consider a referral for outside agency support as appropriate.

**Supporting children in school**

School will continue to be a safe place for all students to attend and flourish. The Headteacher/Head of School will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate. The Trust will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19. The Trust will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

**Peer on peer abuse**

The Trust recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where the school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy. The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any outside agency required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions must be recorded on MyConcern and appropriate referrals made.

**Key contacts – safeguarding** \*amended by each school

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Designated Safeguarding Lead		
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead		

**Other key contacts**


**Local support contact details**

*Area Safeguarding Advisor* - 03000 41 24 45

*Online Safety (non-urgent)* - 03000 415797 / [esafetyofficer@kent.gov.uk](mailto:esafetyofficer@kent.gov.uk)

*LADO* - 03000 410888 / [kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk)

*Children's Social Work Services 'Front door'* - 03000 411111

*Out of Hours* - 03000 419191

*Kent Police* - 101 (or **999 if there is an immediate risk of harm**)

*Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP)* - 03000 421126 / [kscmp@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kscmp@kent.gov.uk)