



COVID – 19 ACADEMY WIDER OPENING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

PHASE	JUNIOR & SECONDARY
POLICY LEAD	RACHEL DENTON (ACET LEAD ON SAFEGUARDING)
DATE OF APPROVAL BY TRUSTEES	10 th JUNE 2020
FREQUENCY DATE	EMERGENCY ADDENDUM 2

ACET Safeguarding Policies are adopted from the model policies provided by Rotherham, Sheffield and Derbyshire local authorities.

KEY CONTACTS IN ACET ACADEMIES

The Designated Safeguarding Lead - ACET

Rachel Denton rdenton@swintonacademy.org

The Trustee with Responsibility for Safeguarding - ACET

Roy Dyson (can be contacted via Clerk to Trustees)

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This document forms the second emergency addendum of the ACET Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, January 2020. It provides updated guidance which is operational from 1st June 2020, in preparation for the phased return to our academies of more children.

Context

From 1st June 2020 schools have been directed by the Government to begin to phase in a return to attendance at school for pupils/students from reception, year 1 and year 6 in primary settings and students from Y10 and Y12 in secondary settings. These are in addition to the children of identified critical key workers and vulnerable children already supported to attend throughout the pandemic.

At ACET our primary concern is the safety and wellbeing of all of our children and all of our staff. The trust uses a risk based framework which allows each of the academies to prioritise the year groups with the greatest need in their respective reopening plans.

Preparation

As part of the ACET risk based framework, all academies will complete a Safeguarding Checklist to confirm statutory compliance and relevant changes to processes prior to reopening. In addition, the academy has also:

- Ensured all staff have been part of a staff consultation conference call where plans have been shared and opportunities have been created for staff to share concerns.
- Ensured all staff have read and understood the updated safeguarding Covid-19 guidance and changes to policy shared during school closure and in preparation for reopening
- Liaised with social workers for any vulnerable pupils/students who have not been taking up the offer of a place in school - the expectation is that all these children will return to attendance in the academy (unless it is agreed by their social worker in collaboration with the academy that there are exceptional circumstances preventing this)
- Completed and regularly reviewed individual risk assessments where a vulnerable pupil/student is not attending the academy, and conducted regular safe and well checks, ensuring all concerns are shared with the allocated social worker in a timely manner

- Reported any children missing in education (CME) to the Local Authority in line with statutory guidance
- Carried out individual risk assessments for pupils/students with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) –the expectation is that attendance is expected for all these pupils/students provided that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
- Considered the well-being of staff members, made arrangements for continued working from home for those staff who have agreed that they will not return to the academy at this time based on their individual health and/or circumstances
- Ensured that additional support is available for any staff members who require it e.g. through The Employee Assist Programme.
- Reminded all staff members of safeguarding processes and procedures and what to do if they have concerns about a pupil/student or about a member of staff
- Informed parents/carers of the arrangements made, including when their child can return, their child's timetable, any specific requirements around drop off and pick up times
- Ensured the school has a minimum of 2, ideally 3 up to date emergency contact numbers should the child become unwell and display Covid-19 symptoms whilst in the academy.

The academy recognises that many pupils/students will have been affected by aspects of the pandemic and the lockdown and many will require additional support. Some pupils/students may have experienced bereavements of close family members, others may have suffered abuse or neglect which they have not been able to disclose. Some pupils/students may have experienced anxiety or distress due to the overall situation, things they have seen on social media or been told, been impacted on by difficulties their families have experienced in relation to financial matters or other family issues. Some pupils/students may find it difficult to settle back into the academic structure of school or feel anxious regarding the physical changes to classrooms and routines. Children may experience difficulties with peer relationships after a lengthy period of isolation from others their own age.

All staff will be alert to signs of stress in pupils/students and enable pupils/students to talk about how they are feeling.

Any safeguarding concerns will be passed to the DSL (or deputy DSLs) promptly and any necessary referrals made to the relevant agencies or services.

Any emerging concerns will be discussed with parents/carers in the usual way, unless the information known leads the DSL to believe this could place a pupil at risk of immediate and further harm, in which case a referral will be made to the local authority teams without delay in the usual manner.

Pupils/students remaining at home

- Pupils/students who are not returning to the academy initially will continue to be offered access to online learning or home learning packs as previously provided
- Staff will monitor and track pupil engagement daily through various means of communication to ensure that all children not in the academy are safe and well.
- Safeguarding measures as detailed in previous policy documents will be maintained for this group of pupils/students
- Online safety guidance is available on the academy website