



COVID-19 THE FOREST FAMILY SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY UPDATE (TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FOREST FAMILY'S MAIN POLICY)

THIS POLICY WAS RELEVANT WHEN WE WERE PARTIALLY OPENING TO CHILDREN – PLEASE ASK TO SEE MAY VERSION FOR HISTORICAL POLICY.

Now we are fully open our standard safeguarding policy is in place read in conjunction with our risk assessments and behaviour annex which have been written in line with DfE Covid 19 safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers guidance

SCHOOL NAME:- The Forest Family
POLICY OWNER:- Charlene Gethin
DATE OF UPDATE:- 31st August 2020
DATE SHARED WITH STAFF:-1st September 2020

CONTEXT

Full opening of schools from 1st September

The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. We know that school is a vital point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the wellbeing of children and families.

In relation to working in schools, whilst it is not possible to ensure a totally risk-free environment, the Office of National Statistics' analysis on [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) related deaths linked to occupations](#) suggests that staff in educational settings tend not to be at any greater risk from the disease than many other occupations. There is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults.

Key contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead Charlene Gethin
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Jodie Jones and Donna Preston
Chair of Governors Mrs Selena Tye
Safeguarding Governor Mr Graham Bott

All children are expected to return which includes all vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

The Forest Family recognises that previously looked after children are a potentially vulnerable group who may not have a social worker and will consider the support and offer to this cohort of children. In particular families and friend's carers may need additional support. Some previously looked after children may still have significant emotional wellbeing needs linked to their journey into care. Education settings have a key role in supporting the stability of those children with special guardianship orders or in adoptive homes.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed for their return to school and concerns raised by parents will be managed through a supportive process. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, The Forest Family and the LA will work through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England with a full risk assessment of the child.

The Forest Family will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the Local Authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after (NA at this time) and previously looked-after children. We will work with social workers to ensure that Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for Looked After Children are up to date with the current education offer that looked after children are accessing.

Attendance monitoring

Returns to the normal procedures with the additional DFE form.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

As school is open and full, the DSL and deputy DSL will always be on site.

The DSL will ensure all relevant safeguarding and welfare information held on children remains accurate, and complete.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

Reporting a concern

As per main policy.

Safeguarding Training and induction

Training will be remote.

All existing Forest Family staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020).

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

As per main policy.

Online safety at The Forest Family

Our schools will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where pupils are using computers in our schools, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Children and online safety at home where children are isolating work will be provided for home learning.

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per The Forest Family's Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police. Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in The Forest Family's code of conduct. The Forest Family will ensure that any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Supporting children in school

The Forest Family is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils. Our pupils will continue to have a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. Our Governors and Head Teacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

The Forest Family 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.

Where The Forest Family has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as the Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – they will discuss them immediately with the Chair of Governors

Mental Health

The Forest Family is aware of the impact of the negative experiences and distressing life events on the mental health of children, parents and staff. We will, as we always have, ensure there is appropriate support and signposting to relevant support agencies in place.

Peer on Peer Abuse

As per main policy.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

FIRST RESPONSE PHONE NUMBER :- 08001313126

DUTY LADO :- Contact First Response, 0800 1313126

NSPCC :- 0808 800 5000

virtual.school@staffordhsire.gov.uk

ESAS:- 01785 895836