



King Fahad Academy

COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING

1. INTRODUCTION/CONTEXT

The way the King Fahad Academy is operating in response to the coronavirus (COVID19) is fundamentally different to business as usual. This addendum has been created to ensure the culture of safeguarding is maintained in the event of school closure.

Schools have been asked to provide care for children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This addendum of the King Fahad Academy Child Protection and Safeguarding policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

1. Vulnerable children
2. Increased vulnerability or risk
3. Attendance monitoring
4. Reporting a concern
5. Safeguarding training and Induction
6. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff
7. Online safety in school
8. Children and online safety away from school
9. Supporting children not in school
10. Supporting children in school
11. Peer on Peer abuse

2. KEY CONTACTS

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mr Stuart McWilliams stuart.mcwilliams@thekfa.org.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Ms Hania Farwati hania.farwati@thekfa.org.uk



Safeguarding Trustee:

Dr Alhanoot - contact through burcu.koc@thekfa.org.uk

3. INDIVIDUAL SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

1. 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 includes 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. Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs in the event of school closures, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home.

This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead), know who are the most vulnerable children. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

The King Fahad Academy 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 and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be Stuart McWilliams.

There is an expectation, in the event of school closure, that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions which put them at risk.



In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and The King Fahad Academy will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID-19, The King Fahad Academy or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

The King Fahad Academy will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend school, including remotely accessing school if needed.

2. Increased vulnerability or At Risk

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. King Fahad Academy staff will be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Where we are providing for children of critical key workers and vulnerable children on school premises, we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them. Our staff and volunteers will be aware of the mental health of children and their parents and carers and will contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead if they have any concerns.

3. Attendance monitoring

Local Authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. Teaching staff will be asked to share a list of absentees with the school secretaries on a central list. The secretaries will then alert the Parents by email.

4. Reporting a Concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the King Fahad Academy Children Protection &

Safeguarding Policy, which includes making a report via MyConcern.

MyConcern can be accessed remotely. In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access MyConcern from home, they should email the Designated



& Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. This will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the Headteacher of the appropriate school either by email or phone. Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Director General, or in her absence to the safeguarding Trustee.

5. Safeguarding Training and Induction

Designated Safeguarding Lead training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID-19 virus. For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) even if they miss their refresher training. All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (KCSIE) . The Designated Safeguarding Lead should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter The King Fahad Academy, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability, as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual
- that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training.



Upon commencement of the role, they will be given a copy of the King Fahad Academy child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of Designated Safeguarding Lead arrangements.

6. Safer Recruitment/Volunteers and Movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are deemed unsuitable to work with children are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, The King Fahad Academy will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of KCSIE (2020). In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face to-face contact.

The King Fahad Academy will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 179 of KCSIE 2020.

The King Fahad Academy will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA), consulting the TRA's teacher misconduct advice section for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period (no identified end point) all referrals should be made by emailing **misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk**

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current national emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, The King Fahad Academy will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up-to-date as outlined in paragraphs 164 to 177 in KCSIE.



7. Online safety in school

The King Fahad Academy will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This requires a combination of staff and parental awareness, particularly during the online lessons during any lockdown or quarantine. All concerns, including those raised with them by parents, must be reported by staff using MyConcern for the DSL and DDSL to investigate and take appropriate action.

8. Children and online safety away from school

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 Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and, where appropriate, referrals should still be made to children's social care and, if required, the police.

Whilst students are working virtually, parents are required to monitor and supervise their children's online activity, ensuring their safety. Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the King Fahad Academy code of conduct.

The King Fahad Academy will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems are in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons:

No 1:1 sessions, groups only. The exception to this is SEN work and counselling sessions which both parents and SLT have been informed and consented to.

Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.

Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background. Staff must only use King Fahad Academy accounts to communicate with pupils.



9. Supporting Children Not in School

The King Fahad Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and young people. Where the Designated Safeguarding Lead has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded on MyConcern, as should a record of any contact made. The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact (not using personal numbers), door-step visits. Where concerns arise, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages. The King Fahad Academy recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at The King Fahad Academy need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

10. Supporting Any Children in School

The King Fahad Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. The King Fahad Academy 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 COVID-19.

The King Fahad Academy will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate to maximise safety.

The King Fahad Academy will ensure that where we care for children of critical key workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is



in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on MyConcern. Where King Fahad Academy has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – the Headteachers will discuss their concerns immediately with the Director of Education and the Director General.

11. Peer on Peer Abuse

The King Fahad Academy recognises that during any closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of peer on peer abuse and supporting victims. Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE 2020 and of those outlined within the Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy. The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions must be recorded on MyConcern and appropriate referrals made.