



Thornton Heath Nursery School **Covid-19 annex to safeguarding policy**



This annex should be read in conjunction with the THNS Child Protection Policy, Safeguarding policy and other relevant policies and procedures.

During the Covid-19 pandemic safeguarding children continues to be a priority and staff and volunteers should continue to act immediately on any safeguarding concerns.

The Covid-19 pandemic presents a number of safeguarding challenges for schools. The principles of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 ([KCSIE 2020](#)) and associated guidance still apply and in responding to Covid-19 the safeguarding of children remains of paramount importance.

This annex follows guidance issued by The Department for Education (DfE);
Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for schools and other educational settings – 20th March 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers – 27th March 2020.

It also follows guidance as set out in Safeguarding children during the Covid-19 pandemic 2020: Local guidance to schools, colleges and other education settings in Croydon – 3rd April 2020.

Unless stated otherwise all existing policies, procedures and guidance continue to apply.

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible. Schools were asked to remain open to provide care for a limited number of children, including those who are vulnerable or children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home and absolutely need to attend. The Pegasus Academy Trust is running a trust wide provision from the Whitehorse Manor site and all other schools within the Trust are closed until further notice. This provision for children of keyworkers and/ or vulnerable children will be referred to as the 'Covid Provision' throughout this appendix. It is possible that THNS, as an LA maintained school will open under guidance from the local authority.

- 1) **Concerned about the safety or welfare of a child**
 - a) Speak to your designated safeguarding lead as per the safeguarding policy
 - b) SPOC is operating as normal
 - If you need to contact the SPOC Consultation Line to speak to a social worker you should now email: childreferrals@croydon.gov.uk
 - Provide your contact details and a brief summary of the advice needed and a social worker will call you back as soon as possible

SPOC (Single Point of Contact):

For urgent child protection matters requiring immediate attention: 0208 255 2888

To contact the SPOC Professionals Consultation Line email:
childreferrals@croydon.gov.uk

Submit the online referral form: Click [HERE](#) for the referral form
Or email SPOC referrals to: childreferrals@croydon.gov.uk

Manager: Jonathan Lung (Service Leader, Children & Families)

Email: Jonathan.Lung@croydon.gov.uk

- c) If you believe that a child is at immediate risk of harm call the police on 999
- 2) Allegations against a teacher, other staff member, volunteer or another professional
- Follow procedures as per the school safeguarding policy
 - The LADO function is operating as normal
 - The criteria and threshold for contacting to the LADO remain unchanged. A record will be kept of all contact made with families.
 - Any concerns about the welfare or safety of a child should be recorded and reported to the DSL as normal as set out in the school's safeguarding policy.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):

Email: lado@croydon.gov.uk

Senior LADO: Steve Hall

Email: steve.hall@croydon.gov.uk

Tel: 0208 255 2889

Mob: 07825 830328

LADO: Jane Parr

Email: jane.parr@croydon.gov.uk

Tel: 0208 726 6000 (Ext. 84343) Mob: 07985 590505

- 3) Designated safeguarding leads
- Jenette Indarsingh is the lead DSL for THNS. There are a number of other trained DSLs across the THNS.
 - At THNS, we will endeavour to ensure a DSL is available on site at all times once the provision has re-opened.
 - In the event that a DSL is unable to be present on site, a trained DSL will be available to be contacted via phone or online video.
 - All staff working will be advised who to contact, including names and on call contact details, when a DSL cannot be present on site. In addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.
 - Throughout this period of school closure, the lead DSL will inform all staff of any changes to the safeguarding policy.
 - The named DSLs for each school will continue to carry out their duties remotely, as far as is possible, as described in the existing policies. This will include being accessible for their members of staff, continuing to engage with social workers and attend multi-agency meetings remotely.
- 4) Vulnerable children
- We recognise that all pupils are potentially vulnerable during this period, though some pupils are already known to be more vulnerable than others. (Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on vulnerable children and young people – 1st April 2020)
 - The school will take steps to ensure all children are safeguarded during this period.
 - Children will be prioritised in relation to risk, with actions proportionate to risk.
 - We will make the following arrangements:

Priority

Arrangements to safeguard

<p>1) Without continued regular contact this child they will be at significant risk of harm.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children will be offered a place at the Trust's Covid Provision. - Access to hot school meal on a daily basis. - Continued contact between school and social worker/ virtual head/ SEN/ external agencies - Where some parents do not wish for their children to attend the provision, the school will contact the social worker to discuss on-going arrangements. - Children will be provided with food parcels if required/ not able to access the hot school meals
<p>2) Active contact needs to be maintained with this family on a regular basis to monitor how the family are coping and to escalate if necessary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keyworkers at THNS have been asked to make telephone calls to their key children on a twice weekly basis. Parents have been provided with an emergency email address keepintouch@THNS.org which is monitored on a daily basis. - Access to hot school meal service on a daily basis, served between 12-1pm from WHM - Continued contact with external agencies as required - Children will be provided with food parcels if required/ not able to access the hot school meals
<p>3) Less frequent contact can be maintained due to stability in this child's safety network This may include children who do not meet the 'vulnerable' definition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keyworkers at THNS have been asked to make telephone calls to their key children on a twice weekly basis. - Parents have been provided with an emergency email address keepintouch@THNS.org which is monitored on a daily basis. - Access to hot school meal service on a daily basis, served between 12-1pm from WHM

5) Attendance

- a) THNS does not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes.
- b) The Trust (which includes THNS) will maintain a daily register of all staff, volunteers and children attending the Covid Provision and hot school meals service. A record will also be kept of food parcels that have been delivered.
- c) The names of all children in attendance are recorded daily by staff working at Whitehorse and records kept.
- d) In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at the provision, or discontinues, the named DSL for that child will notify their social worker.

6) Online lessons/activities and other staff contact with pupils

- a) The schools Code of Conduct in relation to use of technology; staff/pupil relationships and communication; and use of social media still applies.
- b) The safeguarding of staff and children remains paramount.
- c) The Executive Heads may grant permission in advance in specific circumstances such as allowing staff to deliver live online lessons/activities or carry out welfare checks.
- d) Staff must not:

- Contact children on the child's mobile phone. Telephone welfare checks must be made via the parents/carers' contact numbers.
- Email pupils from their personal email address or email pupils at their personal email address. Any emails between staff and children must be from/to email addresses within the school's email system.
- Deliver online lessons/activities on a one-to-one basis. These must be delivered from school accounts/platforms and there must always be at least two members of staff online for the duration of all such lessons/activities.
- e) Staff must only use platforms approved by Pegasus Academy Trust to communicate with pupils.
- f) All staff who interact with children, including online, must continue to look out for signs that a child may be at risk. Any concerns should be recorded and reported to the DSL as normal as set out in the school's safeguarding policy.

7) Safer recruitment

- a) Safer recruitment checks will continue for new staff and volunteers as before in line with the Trust's safer recruitment policy
- b) All new staff and volunteers will be provided with a safeguarding induction and must undertake safeguarding training
- c) DSL 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 DSL who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL.

8) Safeguarding at the Covid Provision

- a) As THNS in partnership with Pegasus Academy Trust is running its own provision within the Trust there are no arrangements for acting as a hub school/ sending pupils to a hub school
- b) As all the children attending the provision are from Pegasus schools, all information regarding SEND, medical, safeguarding and welfare information is available.
- c) Emergency contact information for all staff, volunteers and children in attendance is also accessible centrally.
- d) Every day, all Pegasus staff, volunteers and children at the provision are aware of the safeguarding arrangements on site.
- e) All staff and volunteers working at the provision have satisfactorily cleared all safer recruitment checks and undergone safeguarding training in the last 12 months as set out in PAT's safer recruitment policy. All staff are listed on the Single Central Register.

9) Contextual safeguarding information

- a) The designated safeguarding lead for THNS will ensure:
 - All staff and volunteers are aware of the increased contextual safeguarding risks associated with Covid-19 in respect of online safety, mental health and domestic abuse.
 - Parents/carers and children are given appropriate information in relation to the increased contextual safeguarding risks associated with Covid-19 in respect of online safety, mental health and domestic abuse.
- b) THNS will share safeguarding messages on the THNS website and will refer parents to the PAT website and social media pages when necessary.
- c) THNS will continue to use 'National Online Safety' service to support staff, parents and children.
- d) THNS recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of abuse and supporting victims. Where a school

receives a report of peer on peer abuse, we will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE.

- e) THNS will follow the 'Coronavirus Critical Incident Response Guidance published by Croydon Council - April 2020' in response to how any bereavements may be handled including obtaining any support from external services as required.

This annex must be approved by the chair and lead governor for safeguarding prior to being implemented. It should then go to the next governing body for formal ratification.

Signed:

Print name:

Designation:

Date:

Signed:

Print name: Jenette Indarsingh

Designation: Lead governor for safeguarding

Date: 20/4/20