

**Beths Grammar School - Addendum in response to Covid-19 –  
Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures during School Closure 2020**

**Context**

On 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, as part of the response to coronavirus (COVID-19). Schools and childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

The way that Beths Grammar School is currently operating in response to coronavirus is fundamentally different, however, our safeguarding principles in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) 2019, remain the same:

- the best interests of children will always come first
- if anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL is available
- unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online.

This addendum contains details of any amendments to our existing safeguarding arrangements.

**Safeguarding Advice for Parents / Carers and Students**

The school's Safeguarding Team will continue to monitor vulnerable students during the period of closure and maintain contact with the relevant services. If you have a safeguarding concern to report during the period of school closure, please contact us via the safeguarding team email - [esafe@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:esafe@beths.bexley.sch.uk) . If you have an urgent concern about a young person please contact Bexley Children's Services directly on 0208 303 7777; Kent Children's Services directly on 03000 41 11 11 or Greenwich Children's Services on 0208 921 3172, or the relevant branch of the emergency services.

**Children who are vulnerable, part of an EHCP and / or children of Key Workers**

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State for Education, schools will remain open for the parents of those deemed to be vulnerable (subject to a CSC plan), those with an EHCP and / or the children of key workers: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-forparents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

The list of key workers can be found in full here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educationalprovision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educationalprovision>

However, it is important to note the following points within the guidance:

- Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

- Children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the government can send their children to school if required.
- This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.
- If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service. Safeguarding Advice for Staff Remote Learning  
All staff will continue to set work in line with the school's policy on remote learning.  
When educating students remotely, staff should bear the following guidance in mind:
  - Use school email addresses only when communicating with students and other staff about classes, work etc.
  - Do not use your personal phone number to contact parents or students.
  - Questions regarding the work set should be from students via Show My Homework.

### **Safeguarding Procedures**

A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be available on site or they can be contacted via email on [esafe@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:esafe@beths.bexley.sch.uk) or mobile if working from home. If there is no DSL on site, the member of the Senior Leadership Team on duty will assume responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site. If a member of staff has a safeguarding concern about a young person during the period of school closure, they should follow the school's usual safeguarding procedures and contact Mrs S King (as Designated Safeguarding Lead) and Mrs T Searby (Deputy Safeguarding Lead) via the internal safeguarding email, followed up with a record of concern form when/if possible. Any member of school staff with a concern can contact the respective Children's Services Team, in which borough the child resides.

A member of the Senior Leadership Team on duty will ensure that there are appropriate staff on site and that staff to learner ratios have been considered to maximise the safety of children. Beths Grammar School will follow the current government guidance in relation to social distancing and all matters relating to public health from the respective websites and outlets.

### **Safeguarding vulnerable students who are not on site during School Closure**

The parents of students who are subject to a Child in Need or Child Protection Plan are aware, in liaison with their social worker, that the school is open to the children should it be the safest possible option for them. They, and all other parents / carers, have been signposted to a range of support, such as local Children's Services and Childline, via the school pastoral bulletin.

### **Keeping in contact with vulnerable students during School Closure**

The school's DSL and Deputy DSL have used their current RAB rating, along with Bexley's suggested RAB (Red, Amber or Blue) rating, to carry out an assessment of those students who were part of a CP/CIN plan and also those deemed to be vulnerable who are not part of a CP/CIN plan.

The DSL should ensure that the school has up to date contact details for the children identified by the RAB assessment. Those deemed most at risk will be contacted by the safeguarding team at least once per week to identify and address any concerns, whilst providing the necessary level of support. The DSL will contact the students identified by phone using a school number, with the log of this communication presented to the Headteacher on a weekly basis. Any concerns should be flagged immediately and all conversations and updates will be recorded on the child's safeguarding file.

The relevant LA Children's Social care professional should be kept informed of any conversations and /or developments. Other professionals working with the child should be identified and kept informed. The DSL will continue to engage with social workers and attend all multi-agency meetings, which may be done remotely.

The DSL will use the safeguarding email to check for external concerns raised by parents/students and will respond accordingly.

In the event that it is felt a home visit is necessary to check the welfare of individual students, the following principles should be adhered to:

- Make sure to see and speak to students
- Speak to them on the doorstep, or see them through a window if they're self-isolating
- Avoid close contact with them (closer than 2 metres for more than 15 minutes), in line with government advice on social distancing
- Avoid staff going to students' homes alone. Have two members of staff go, ideally including someone with a good relationship with the family.

### **Attendance**

Children with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed by the SENDCO in consultation with the Local Authority and parents and a decision will be made about whether they should continue to attend school. Beths Grammar School will also follow up with families/carers that have arranged a place for their child/children, namely keyworkers or children that are considered vulnerable but not open to any agencies, and do not attend.

Beths Grammar School will complete both the LA and government daily online attendance form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school/college.

### **Safeguarding training and induction**

Both the DSL and the Deputy DSL have completed their formal DSL training this academic year. Staff will be made aware if any processes have changed with the sharing of this addendum and the DSL will communicate any changes to local processes directly. All new staff and volunteers will have an induction provided via the DSL and will be provided with a copy of the safeguarding policy along with this addendum.

If Beths Grammar School employs new staff during the period of school closure, we will continue to follow the safer recruitment practices and will ensure a safeguarding induction takes place remotely if necessary.

### **Supporting students not in school**

Beths Grammar School will continue to make pastoral contact with their respective year groups to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people currently on the school roll.

The school counselling service will continue to make contact with students currently in their care via phone, email or online. Any concerns following any of these meetings will be referred to the safeguarding team immediately. Any student brought to the safeguarding team's attention that may benefit from the school counselling service will continue to be referred as per current practice.

Beths Grammar school will provide children and their families with advice/links to appropriate services/resources that are aimed at supporting them throughout this period.

### **Online safety away from school**

All staff will continue to look out for any signs that indicate a child may be at risk online and will report and respond to concerns in line with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy addendum. Where necessary, referrals will be made to LADO, children's social care and as required, the police.

Learners are encouraged to report concerns to a member of staff or a trusted adult at home. Where this is not possible, additional support can be accessed online via:

Childline: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

UK Safer Internet Centre's 'Report Harmful Content': <https://reportharmfulcontent.com>

National Crime Agency Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (NCA-CEOP): [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre)

Parents/carers are encouraged to ensure children are appropriately supervised online and that appropriate parent controls are implemented.

All communication with learners and parents/carers will take place using school provided or approved communication channels; for example, school provided email accounts and Show My Homework. Beths Grammar School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Staff and learners will engage with remote teaching and learning in line with existing behaviour principles as set out in our school Behaviour Policy.

### **Additional support and links**

#### **Support for safeguarding or child protection issues during the school closure:**

- Bexley Children's Services – 0203 045 5440.
- Greenwich Children's Services – 0208 921 3172
- <https://www.kooth.com> - a free online counselling and emotional well-being support service for young people aged 11-19 in Bexley
- [www.healtheme.co.uk](http://www.healtheme.co.uk) - Access to the Bexley and Bromley School nursing service
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 Contact professional counsellors for help, advice and support
- Childline: 0800 1111 - Free, confidential advice and support for children and young people In the event that you are unable to gain advice and support from any of these sources and are concerned about a child's safety contact the emergency services.

#### **Specific Links relating to Coronavirus for Learners and Parents/Carers:**

- **Childline:** [www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/](http://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/)
- **Mind:** [www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing](http://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing)
- **Young Minds:** <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>
- **Sport England:** [www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout](http://www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout)

- Place2be: o [www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-supportingchildren-who-may-be-especially-vulnerable/](http://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-supportingchildren-who-may-be-especially-vulnerable/)  
[www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-information-forchildren/](http://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-information-forchildren/)

#### Online Safety:

- NCA-CEOP: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/)
- Internet Matters: [www.internetmatters.org/](http://www.internetmatters.org/)
- Childnet: [www.childnet.com/blog/keeping-children-happy-and-safe-online-during-covid-19](http://www.childnet.com/blog/keeping-children-happy-and-safe-online-during-covid-19)
- UK Safer Internet Centre: [www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/working-remotely-advice-professionalsparents-posh-rhc](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/working-remotely-advice-professionalsparents-posh-rhc)
- NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/)
- Parent Info: <https://parentinfo.org/>
- BBC Own it: [www.bbc.com/ownit](http://www.bbc.com/ownit)

#### Domestic Abuse:

- Domestic Abuse Services: [www.domesticabuseservices.org](http://www.domesticabuseservices.org)
- Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111 [www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/supportline](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/supportline)
- National Women's Aid Domestic Abuse 24hr helpline:0800 200024  
[www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/)
- [www.bexleydomesticabuseservices.org.uk](http://www.bexleydomesticabuseservices.org.uk)
- Solace – domestic violence - 0203 1984 659 (Mon-Fri 9-5)
- The Freephone, 24hr National Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0808 2000 247 or [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/Contact-us](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/Contact-us)
- National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0800 999 5428
- Men's Advice Line – a confidential helpline, email and webchat service for male victims of domestic abuse: 0808 801 0327 or [www.mensadvice.org.uk](http://www.mensadvice.org.uk)
- Respect Phonenumber – a confidential helpline, email and webchat service for domestic abuse perpetrators and those supporting them: 0808 8024040 or [www.respectphonenumber.org.uk](http://www.respectphonenumber.org.uk)