



COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Goldington Academy

January 2021

This addendum of the Goldington Academy Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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1. Context

From January 2021 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all 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.

2. 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.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, 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.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

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

Goldington 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: Will Atkinson and Anthea Jones

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that 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 school name will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Goldington Academy or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Goldington Academy will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

3. Key contacts

Designated Safeguarding Officer	Mr Will Atkinson	01234 261516 07711349611 atkinsonw@goldington.beds.sch.uk
Academy Principal	Mr Francis Galbraith	01234261516 07711349612 galbraithf@goldington.beds.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Anthea Jones	01234 261516 07711349614 jonesa@goldington.beds.sch.uk
Nominated Governor	Mr Alan Dickinson	dickinsona@goldington.beds.sch.uk
Integrated Front Door (previously MASH)	Borough Hall, Bedford	01234 718700 (office hours) or 0300 300 8123 (out of hours).
NSPCC Helpline	NSPCC	0800 800 5000
Bedford Borough Local Area Designated Officer	Sandeep Mohan	LADO@Bedford.gov.uk Sandeep.Mohan@bedford.gov.uk 01234 276693
Bedfordshire Police		01234 841212/101 In emergency dial 999

4. 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.

Goldington Academy and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – Goldington Academy will then follow up on any pupil that

they were expecting to attend, who does not. Goldington Academy will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

5. Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

A trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via email, phone or online video daily, please see key contacts.

The ongoing work of the DSL and any deputies might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, CPOMS and liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

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

6. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via CPOMS, which can be done remotely.

Mandatory reporting duty for **female genital mutilation (FGM)** requires teachers in England to **report** suspected and known cases of **FGM** in under 18-year-olds to the police via 111.

If it thought that a child is in immediate danger then the concern should be referred immediately to the police (via 111) and social services (Integrated Front Door 01234 718700 or 0300 300 8123 out of hours).

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Safeguarding Lead with their concerns. This will ensure that the concern is received. In the event that the DSL and Deputy DSL are unavailable to work, the concern should be reported to the Academy Principal.

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 their concern via email to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Academy Principal. Concerns about the Academy Principal should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Robin Francis.

The Academy will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

7. Safeguarding Training and induction

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) 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). The DSL 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 school name, 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

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Goldington Academy will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (KCSIE).

8. Safer recruitment

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.

Where Goldington Academy are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Goldington 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.

Goldington Academy will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA).

During the COVID-19 period 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 or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Goldington Academy will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date.

9. Online safety in schools and colleges

Goldington Academy will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

10. Children and online safety away from school and college

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 Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

All communication with pupils must only be carried out through channels maintained and monitored by the school, for example the school's email system, Show My Homework, GCSE Pod etc.

Goldington Academy will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s, groups only
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and the background should be blurred.

- Live classes should be kept to 50 minutes
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms provided by Goldington Academy to communicate with pupils

11. Supporting children not in school

Goldington Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Goldington Academy and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

Goldington 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 school name need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

12. Supporting children in school

Goldington Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Goldington Academy will continue to be a safe space for 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.

Goldington 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 COVID19.

Goldington Academy will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, appropriate support is in place for them as necessary.

13. Peer on Peer Abuse

Goldington Academy recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such 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 and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.