BADGERBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING:

COVID-19 ADDENDUM

(November 2020)

During the arrangements put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Child Protection/ Safeguarding policy will continue to apply unless superseded by the provisions set out here. This addendum will be reviewed and revised to take account of ongoing changes to COVID-19 guidance and arrangements.

DSL (and deputy) arrangements

If the DSL and all other trained Deputy DSLs are isolating away from school, where possible, they will continue to be available to support and advise staff with safeguarding concerns. In this scenario, or where the DSL or a Deputy is not available, a member of the Middle Leadership Team will be designated to respond on site to safeguarding concerns. Staff will continue to report all safeguarding concerns in the usual way (including allegations and safeguarding concerns about adults working in school) and be thoroughly briefed about any changes that are required – eg where the DSL or Deputies may be isolating at home.

Vulnerable children

Where a child known to social care is required to isolate at home, the DSL will immediately inform the social care worker allocated to the case.

Parents/carers of vulnerable children who are asked to isolate at home will be regularly contacted by school staff.

- Once a week, a DSL will telephone the parent of each vulnerable child to 'check in' with them. (This may be twice weekly, if we feel that a child/family may need extra support in addition to a once weekly call - it will be down to the discretion of the DSL)
- In the event that we have not been successful in contacting the parent, we will inform them that we will be doing a doorstep, 'safe and well check'. (with social distancing measures observed).
- This information will be shared between DSLs when needed, so whoever is lead in school, is aware of contact made to each child's home.
- The DSL or a Deputy DSL in school will be responsible for following up on a child who was not successfully contacted the previous day.
- Teachers will also contact their vulnerable pupils and any others whose parents are not communicating with the teacher via the class email account.

If parents or carers do not respond to calls or visits, a risk assessment will be completed and a referral to Children's Services considered.

Mental Health

There may be a greater prevalence of mental health concerns when children return to school following a period of isolating at home. Staff will be briefed about this and time will be made available to the DSL or other relevant staff to support children as required.

Monitoring Attendance

Children will be expected to attend school unless a special arrangement is agreed. The school's standard procedures will be applied in the case of absence ie where any child we expect to attend school doesn't attend, or stops attending.

In these cases we will follow up on their absence with their parents or carers, by phone.

Where a parent or carer indicates that they intend to electively home educate because of concerns related to COVID-19, before removing the child from the school roll, a meeting will be arranged involving the parent / carer, the local authority Inclusion Service and any other key professional eg social worker. All the options will be explored in order that the parents fully understand what is involved and so that the best interests of each individual child can be carefully considered before making a final decision. This is particularly important where vulnerable children, children with a social worker, and those at greatest risk of harm are involved. Where an EHCP is in place for the child the local authority will be asked to give consent to Elective Home Education before removing the child from the school roll.

Online Safety

The online safety of children who may be learning remotely at home will be considered and any necessary adjustments made to networks and school devices used for this purpose. Children will be taught how to stay safe online when they are learning remotely.

Staff will continue to follow the process for online safety set out in our Child Protection Policy

We will make sure parents and carers:
- Are aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of staying safe online
- Know what our school is asking children to do online, including what sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school
- Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online

Staff Code of Conduct

- Staff engaged in remote teaching and learning will follow the code of conduct guidance set out in the "Safer Working Practice Addendum" April 2020 (Safer Recruitment Consortium).

Staff recruitment

- Safer Recruitment procedures will continue to be robustly applied including where virtual interviews may be used and if so, a risk assessment will be completed.
- The Single Central Record will be continuously updated and include the details of any staff who may be engaged in teaching and learning from home and any catch-up tutors employed by the school, for example.

Monitoring and Review

This addendum was adopted by the Governing Body on 18th November 2020 and will be reviewed as guidance for schools opening in a pandemic is updated or if the Tier or National Restrictions affect the opening of the school.

Signature   *MD Moran*   **(Chair of Governors)**

Print Name: **Mrs M Moran**

Date: 18 November 2020