COVID-19 arrangements for safeguarding and child protection at Lent Rise School

School name:Lent Rise School

Policy owner: Jill Watson

Date: 10/4/2020

Date shared with governors and trustees:15/4/2020

Date shared with staff:15/4/2020

The safety and welfare of all children must always be Lent Rise School's priority and the principles within the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2019 and our CP Policy still apply.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Role	Name	Phone	Email
Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	**Jill Watson**	**01628662913 / 07922579212**	**j.watson@lentrise.bucks.sch.uk**
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	**Rachael Small**	**01628662913**	**r.small@lentrise.bucks.sch.uk**
Chair of Governors/Trustee	**Maggie Young**	**01628662913**	**govs@lentrise.bucks.sch.uk**
Safeguarding Governor/Trustee	**Peter Stride**	**01628662913**	**govs@lentrise.bucks.sch.uk**

A member of the DSL team will always be available during school hours. The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a designated senior member of staff will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

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

Responsibilities

We continue to take a whole school approach to safeguarding and it is the responsibility of all staff to report any concerns that they may have for the safety and/or welfare of any children with whom they have contact. This contact may be via e-mail, virtual teaching, through a phone call or directly with the child.

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children.

A written notification, Letter of Assurance, will be obtained from a setting or school if any of their staff members come to work at Lent Rise School and a risk assessment will be put in place.

Any volunteers coming into Lent Rise School, will be subject to relevant checks being completed 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. A risk assessment will be put in place on an individual basis.

Any staff or volunteers, carrying out duties in this school, who are usually based in another setting, will read the school's Child Protection Policy and KCSIE 2019, Part 1 and annexe A. They will be informed of who the DSLs are and made aware of the school and local procedures for reporting concerns.

Induction to safeguarding training will be completed by the DSL/Headteacher for any volunteers who are not familiar with our school.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current national emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that Lent Rise 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, Lent Rise School will continue to keep the Single Central Record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Our Headteacher, Mrs Jill Watson will ensure that they keep informed of any up to date information, both at a local or national level, as a result of COVID-19, that will impact the welfare of all students within Lent Rise School and will ensure that relevant information is shared with all staff, including any staff who may be carrying out temporary duties.

The Headteacher, Mrs Jill Watson will ensure that the child protection files are kept up to date and any required information is shared with the relevant agencies.

All staff must be made aware of how to report any welfare concerns – there are no changes to current procedures.

All staff continue to have a duty to report any concerns about the conduct or actions of any other member of staff. This report will be made to the Headteacher or Chair of Governors in accordance with the school's Whistleblowing Policy.

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include:

- Children who have a social worker
- Children with Child in Need (CIN) Plans
- Children on Child Protection (CP) Plans
- Looked after children
- Young carers
- Disabled children
- Pupils with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans (0-25) and HNBF

Children who are known to our school and are deemed to be vulnerable will be offered a place in order to continue to attend, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. If, however, we are unable to staff our school due to illness a place will be sought at a nearby setting.

Lent Rise School must offer support to those children and parents/carers, who have concerns about the child contracting Covid-19 through attendance at school. School will also refer the guidance published by Public Health England and follow their advice. In cases

where the child has a social worker, school must make contact with them to discuss the concerns. Guidance will also be sought from the Virtual School Head for children who are looked after (CLA).

Lent Rise School must identify those children who are a concern, but do not meet the criteria to be classed as a vulnerable child.

The Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher will remain in contact with parents of vulnerable pupils as deemed appropriate and proportionate. Logs of all communications will be kept.

Those with an EHCP should be risk-assessed by their school or college in consultation with the local authority (LA) 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.

The SENDCO, Rob Jenkins, will remain in contact with parents of pupils with EHC Plans and those with significant needs, providing support, signposting of support and liaise with other professionals as required.

Lent Rise School 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 for looked-after and previously looked-after children. Lent Rise School will regularly review CP/CIN cases to determine vulnerability and prioritise resources accordingly. The lead person for this will be: Jill Watson /Rachael Small

Lent Rise School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Mental health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Teachers at our school will must be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work whilst they are at home. Lent Rise School will refer to the separate guidance on providing education remotely.

Appropriate support is in place for children of critical workers and vulnerable children attending school. The government guidance mental health and behaviour in schools will be referred to in order to support mental health issues that can bring about changes in a child's behaviour or emotional state, which can be displayed in a range of different ways, and that can be an indication of an underlying problem.

Support for pupils and students in the current circumstances will include existing provision in the school (although this may be delivered in different ways, for example over the phone) or from specialist staff or support services. Further advice on support can be found on schoolsweb at https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/covid-19-corona-virus-latest-advice/covid-19-mental-health-and-well-being/

Online Safety

All staff are aware of the Lent Rise School E-Safety Policy, however during this period of the COVID-19 outbreak, there are other aspects of e-safety that need to be considered.

All staff at Lent Rise School must be reminded to familiarise themselves with the following policies:

- Staff code of conduct
- Acceptable users' policy
- Social media guidance

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.

Lent Rise School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems are in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Staff must only use platforms provided by Lent Rise School to communicate with pupils

Lent Rise School will ensure that children, who are being asked to work online, have very clear reporting routes in place so they can raise any concerns whilst online. As well as reporting routes back to school, children will be signposted to age-appropriate practical support from, for example:

- Childline - for support
- UK Safer Internet Centre - to report and remove harmful online content
- CEOP - for advice on making a report about online abuse

Parents and carers may choose to supplement the school online offer with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors. In the communications with parents and carers, Lent Rise School will emphasise the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children. Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- Net-aware - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers.

For those students who are still accessing computers at school and therefore are online, school will still continue to ensure that the appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place.

Supporting children not in school

Lent Rise School and its Headteacher/DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan. This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Supporting children in school

Lent Rise School 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.

Lent Rise School 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.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Lent Rise School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims**.** Pupils and parents will be informed of the procedures to report any concerns if they are different.

Lent Rise School recognises that during the period of school closure, children may have more frequent access to online devices, which has the potential to lead to online peer on peer abuse. These would include:

Sexting

Online abuse

Peer-on-peer grooming

Distribution of youth involved sexualised content

Harassment

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, it will be addressed promptly and appropriately, following 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 child, parents/carers and multi-agency partners, including a report to the police, if required, to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded, and appropriate referrals made.

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.

For those children where it has been agreed between Lent Rise School, social workers and parents/carers that children will be attending school, the school will follow up on any pupil who does not arrive at the agreed time.

Lent Rise School 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.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school or discontinues, a DSL will notify their social worker.

To support the above, Lent Rise School will, when communicating with parents/carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

The Department for Education has introduced a daily online attendance form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. This allows for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allows schools to provide accurate, up-to-date data to the department on the number of children taking up places.

Children moving schools and colleges

If any children are attending another setting, all relevant welfare and child protection information will be shared with that school. All relevant contacts, including social care contacts will also be shared with the school.

For looked-after children, any change in school must be led and managed by the Virtual School Head. The receiving school must be made aware of the reason the child is vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them.

The receiving school will have access to a vulnerable child's EHC Plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or, for looked-after children, their personal education plan and know who the child's social worker is (and, for looked-after children, who the responsible Virtual School Head is). All medical information must be shared with the receiving school and

suitable arrangements made for any children requiring medication to be administered. A risk assessment and protocol will be drawn up to cover individual cases. Contact telephone numbers will be shared with any receiving school. Wherever possible this will take place prior to the child arriving or as soon as possible following their arrival.

Any exchanges of information will ideally happen at DSL (or deputy) level, and likewise between special educational needs co-ordinators/named individual with oversight of SEND provision for children with EHC plans. However, it is acknowledged this may not always be possible. Where this is the case senior leaders must take responsibility.

Whilst schools and colleges must continue to have appropriate regard to data protection and GDPR this legislation does not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. School must follow the advice about information sharing that can be found at paragraphs 76-83 of KCSIE.

All staff will be sent this additional policy to read and to sign to say they have read and understood the content.

If staff are working from home they will be asked to email confirming the above.