

Safeguarding Policy: Addendum



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

From 20th March 2020 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 and Vulnerable Children who fulfil the criteria laid down by the Government. Only those children **who absolutely need to attend will be in school beyond this date up and until directed otherwise by the Government.**

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 parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school 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 deputies) 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

Glascote 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 in school will be: Mrs S Field (SENDCo)

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 Glascote Academy will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19,

the SENDCo/DSL/DDSL or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Attendance

Government guidelines have stated that as an education setting, Glascote Academy does not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

As a school will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school and we will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. We 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, we will notify their social worker.

A Senior Leader will ensure that the DFE online register is completed daily. This information will also be shared with the Amanda Heaton (Staffordshire). The leader on site will ensure staff and children are maintaining safe social distancing, and will also ensure cover is arranged if there are any absences.

We will work on a ratio of a maximum of 1:10 to ensure we can maintain social distancing as effectively as possible. Children will have regular access to outdoor exercise on the school site and will continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

Working on one Site

Glascote Academy has the capacity to ensure there is always a DSL/DDSLs, qualified first aider, and a Teacher on site. As all senior leaders are DSL/DDSLs, we aim for at least one to always be on site but if this is not possible due to isolation all staff have access to Leaders' mobile phones in case of an emergency. This will ensure that we can provide a safe learning environment for Key Workers and Vulnerable children as defined by the DFE. All staff will have at least Safeguarding level 1 training and a DBS check; DSL/DDSLs are level 2 trained. During school closure the school will not use volunteers. Unfortunately, the agreed level 4 training for DSL /DDSLs will be placed on hold until the pandemic is over.

If we are unable to maintain a ratio of 1:10 or we do not have a first aider, DSL or a qualified teacher on-site the setting will be closed.

Interim email has been devised which is accessible to the DSL and Deputy DSLs at our school: Closure@glascote.org

Reporting Concerns

If anyone at the setting has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately, following the existing procedures that all staff are aware of and are familiar with. All concerns will be recorded using MyConcern and a DSL or DDSL will be available to respond in line with school policy.

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

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Mrs Vanessa Buchannan.

The ELT of the Fierté Multi-Academy Trust will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations or in the absence of the Headteacher for any prolonged length of time i.e. due to self-isolation and/or confirmed illness.

Children with EHCPs

The SENDCo will speak to all families of SEN Children weekly to ensure that they are fit, well and coping. Details of organisations offering support will be forwarded to those families that need it.

Free School Meals

To support those in receipt of Free School Meals, families will be issued with sandwich bags initially with the move to weekly food hampers. Although the National Food Voucher Scheme is now available (from 31st March), it has been agreed with parents that their needs are better met through the issuing of hampers. This will remain in place unless circumstances such as complete closure or severe staff illness dictate that the voucher scheme has to be adopted. FSM children will still receive these hampers during the Easter holiday even though this is not a Government directive.

Children moving schools

If a child is attending another setting, we will do whatever we reasonably can to provide the receiving institution with any relevant welfare and child protection information. This will be especially important where children are vulnerable. The receiving institution should be aware of the reason the child is vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them. As a minimum the receiving institution should, as appropriate, 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. This should ideally happen before a child arrives and,

where that is not possible as soon as reasonably practicable. 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 SEN provision for children with EHC plans. However, it is acknowledged this may not always be possible. Where this is the case senior leaders should take responsibility. Whilst schools must continue to have appropriate regard to data protection and GDPR they do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe.

Online safety at school

Any internet access whilst on school site will continue to use the online filtering system and pupils will be given, appropriate supervision.

Children and online safety away from school

Staff will not be interacting online with pupils or their families apart from the updating of our school Facebook page which is monitored by one of our Assistant Headteachers and our IT Leader. Information regarding online safety will be forwarded to parents either by the school Facebook page or the school website. All children have received annual e-safety lessons from their teachers and from the Street-wardens (KS2).

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

Supporting children not in school

Glascote Academy is committed to the well-being of its pupils and families. Senior Leaders and office staff will aim to maintain regular contact with our families via telephone contact. These interactions will be logged (dated).

Glascote Academy recognises that school is a protective factor for many children, and that the current circumstances may affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers.

Peer on Peer Abuse

At Glascote Academy, any report of peer on peer abuse will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of our safeguarding policy. The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and

any multi- agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Support from the ELT of Fierté Multi-Academy Trust

An ELT member from the Fierté Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) will be in daily contact with the Headteacher and they will be made aware of any safeguarding or GDPR issues.