

COVID 19 BILSTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL Safeguarding Policy Statement 30/3/20 – ADDITIONAL STATEMENT

BILSTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL will remain closed until further notice except for children of key/critical workers and vulnerable children, as part of the country's ongoing response to coronavirus. 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.

The Government's expectation is that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend school, if it is safe for them to do so. In circumstances where a parent/carer does not want to bring their child to school, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and school will explore the reasons for this, directly with the parent, and help to resolve any concerns or difficulties wherever possible. Where parents/carers are concerned about the risk of the child contracting the virus, our school or social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Our school has a process in place, we call parents/carers to check on the welfare of any vulnerable child **each week**. We keep a record of all calls and contact with families and colleagues

Staff from the Inclusion Support Service will contact schools to ascertain if identified vulnerable children are attending school or not, they will then inform the allocated social worker or early help worker.

Our schools will follow the City of Wolverhampton advice, we will not make home visits.

During term time the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or **deputies**) will always be available (during school hours) for staff in **school** to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Whilst the Designated Safeguarding Leads are expected to be available in person, it is a matter for individual schools, working with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, to define what "available" means and whether in exceptional circumstances availability via phone and or Skype/facetime or other such media is acceptable. **At Bilston CE, all Safeguarding Leads will be contacted via mobile phone be it in school hours or out of hours time.**

If a child is attending another school because they are unable to attend their own school, the Designated Safeguarding Leads at the home school should liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Leads at the host school to share information about children attending the host school regarding emergency contact information, any vulnerabilities e.g. children with a child protection plan, a child in need or a child with an Early Help Assessment, any medical needs or allergies for each child and any other relevant information regarding those children. If the host school has any concerns about children attending their school from a home school, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will raise and share their concerns with the home school immediately and liaise with the social worker if required.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads will continue to follow all local procedures, we will continue to refer all concerns through the well-established channels e.g. Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the Channel Panel etc.

The Wolverhampton MASH is still fully operational and, at the current time, continues to accept all levels of referral. If we are experiencing any issues in getting in touch with Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) our school will contact Helen Patten - helen.patten@wolverhampton.gov.uk

The safeguarding service are also continuing to hold initial and review child protection conferences; however, these will be done virtually or by submission of a report, our school will continue to contribute to these meetings. If we have any issues, our school will contact Nicola Hale - nicola.hale@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Our school will continue to provide contact information and supportive information on their websites for parents/carers by signposting to statutory agencies and third sector agencies and other partners.