



COVID 19 Safeguarding Response at Leamington Community Primary School

Context – Over 50% FSM, 30% SEND, Area of high deprivation

On the 20th March 2020 the government told parents to keep their children at home wherever possible and for some schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response, where those workers have no other safe arrangements for the care of their child/ren. Schools were also asked to provide care for additional children. These children were identified by the government as being vulnerable due to social care involvement or as a result of Special Educational needs or Disability. Prior to Leamington Primary School Closing and before receiving official guidance regarding who met the criteria of vulnerable children, our school Safeguarding Team identified who our most vulnerable children were and formulated a plan to monitor their safety and wellbeing during school closure. The total number of children identified was over 80. Consequently Leamington School went into enforced closure on this date and pupils who met the criteria for the Education Hub where signposted to St Teresa Lisieux Primary School. Our Head Teacher and Deputy DSL worked at the aforementioned hub and were able to share relevant welfare and Child Protection information when required. Where an identified child from Leamington attended another Hub school setting, the DSL from Leamington shared all information with the DSL from that HUB.

During the period of closure school continued to carry out its Duty of Care to safeguard all our pupils in accordance with the following Policies.

- Leamington School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (2019)
- Government Publication Covid 19 Appendix-Safeguarding in Schools (31/03/2020)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 (DFE)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2019)
- Part 1 School Improvement Liverpool Schools Safeguarding Handbook
- Online Safety Policy

To meet the requirements of the above listed Policies the following measures were taken. On lockdown commencing all parents were issued with a detailed letter setting out the schools procedures of what support was to be available to them during the school closure. This included them having access to an email address and a contact number which was available 24hrs a day seven days a week, which was monitored by the Head teacher. The letter also directed them to the 'Safe and Well' page on the school website which gave families additional information regarding Safety Online, Resources to maintain Mental Wellbeing and Learning. All members of the safeguarding Team could be contacted via mobile or email at all times. All contact was recorded on the Schools CPOMS system and the necessary staff alerted. All other staff members had the mobile and email addresses of the safeguarding Team and continued to follow the process outlined in the main school Child Protection Policy.

From the first week of the school closure members of the Inclusion Team called the identified families twice a week and class teachers kept in touch with pupils through the class dojo system.

Food parcels were distributed to specified families and all families who were eligible for FSM were supplied with vouchers.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead liaised with all safeguarding agencies and undertook all the duties that would be normally carried out in the school week. Typically these duties involved carrying out Reviews, providing and sharing information and attending all 'virtual' meetings and making appropriate referrals to

Children's Services and when required the Police without delay. All information gathered by the DSL and members of the Inclusion Team was recorded on the schools CPOMS system for reference by Senior Management and Inclusion Team members. When children were identified as needing extra support the school offered additional weekly calls from the school Learning Mentor. Children needing further assistance were referred to the school Lead Mental Health Practitioner who facilitated support for that child from CAMHS. Children not meeting the criteria for this service were able to be emailed resources supplied by CAMHS to support pupils and their parent's emotional wellbeing during this period. In addition to this, the school designated YPAS Children's Psychological Therapist also carried out weekly sessions over the phone with identified pupils and provided us with updates or any concerns

On The 1st June School reopened for pupils in particular school years. All of the above safeguarding procedures continued but school had a particular emphasis of supporting pupils and their families with Mental Health and Emotional wellbeing.

In the event of a future school closure due to Covid 19. The DSL and members of the Inclusion Team would maintain contact with vulnerable children and those at risk who aren't in school and their parents. These calls will be made twice weekly as has been the procedure throughout the recent period of school closure. Class teachers will be expected to make regular contact with the children via class dojo or phone and respond to parents enquiries.

The DSL will be working in close conjunction with the FSW to ensure pupils who receive FSM continue to do so through hot food deliveries/collection, food parcels and magic breakfast support.

All staff will continue to attend all virtual meetings with agencies, staff, parents and pupils and continue to log all relevant information on the schools CPOMS system.