



The **STEINER**
ACADEMY
Hereford

COVID 19

Safeguarding and Child Protection arrangements for Phased return at Steiner Academy Hereford

To be read in conjunction with SAH *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy* and *Covid-19 School closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Steiner Academy Hereford*.

Context

From the 1st June schools have been asked to start a phased return of pupils following the closure of schools on 20.03.20 to all pupils, excepting those who are the children of key workers, or who are considered vulnerable, in response to Covid-19.

Steiner Academy Hereford will start a phased return of pupils in Class 5 (year 6), and all Kindergarten groups (Nursery/reception/Yr1) from Monday 8th June. The school will continue to be open to children of key workers and to offer places for vulnerable children, including those who have an EHCP, a social worker, are LAC, or who are otherwise considered as vulnerable (as assessed by school or social care).

As school moves into this phased return it will continue to offer on-line educational provision to all relevant year groups and will continue to follow the *Covid-19 School closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Steiner Academy Hereford* alongside this new addendum.

This addendum to the Steiner Academy Hereford Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements with regards to this phased return in the following areas:

1. **Keeping children safe on site**
2. **Returning pupils and safeguarding concerns**
3. **Designated Safeguarding Lead**
4. **Attendance monitoring**
5. **Supporting children not in school including vulnerable children**
6. **Children and online safety away from school**
7. **Online safety in school**
8. **Peer on Peer Abuse**
9. **Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff**

1. Keeping children safe on site

The safety and well-being of our pupils is a priority as we start our phased return to school, and as such a comprehensive Risk Assessment has been undertaken to make school as safe as possible for pupils and staff and to minimise the chances of the spread of Covid-19 on the school site. This RA has been shared with the Local Authority and will be regularly reviewed with any necessary changes being implemented immediately. The following national guidance has been adhered to:

- *Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for schools and other educational settings*
- *Details on phased wider opening of schools, colleges and nurseries*
- *Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings*
- *Actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020*
- *What parents and carers need to know about schools and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak*
- *Planning guide for early years and childcare settings*
- *Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities*

In addition to maximise on-site safety:

- All staff are made aware of current actions and requirements and reminded frequently using email
- All teachers on site will receive detailed instructions for supervising their groups on-site prior to their arrival
- Parents will be notified of the risk assessment plan and infection control measures and any necessary changes.

All staff, pupils and volunteers will make themselves aware of all relevant policies and procedures including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy including addendums relating to Covid-19
- Infection Control Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Intimate care policy
- Behaviour policy

Teaching staff on site will receive any necessary training prior to the phased return of pupils, and on an ongoing basis, as is deemed necessary, to minimise the spread of infection - including infection control training.

Teaching staff will make pupils aware of infection control procedures as they return to school, and on an ongoing basis as is deemed necessary

2. Returning pupils and safeguarding concerns

The Steiner Academy Hereford recognises that there may be an increase in the number of new safeguarding concerns about individual pupils as they see them in person following partial school closures.

SAH recognises that the mental well-being of pupils may have been adversely affected during this time.

As pupils return to school parents will be asked by a relevant member of staff to advise them of any changes regarding welfare, health and well-being that school should be made aware of, and it is that member of staff's responsibility to record this information on CPOMS and alert the safeguarding team.

Returning pupils will be supported by a return to school meeting with a member of the pastoral team and in addition a member of the pastoral team will be made available during the school day for any pupil who wishes to talk.

All staff will continue to report any arising safeguarding concerns by:

- following the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy and promptly reporting the incident on CPOMS. Where this is not possible then staff should email the DSL, DDSL and the Principal;
- follow up with an immediate phone call/conversation if the level of concern is high to ensure that information has been passed over;
- where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should immediately report their concern to the Principal;
- if the concern is about the Principal then it should be immediately reported to the Chair of Governors.

The DSL/DDSL will follow up on any concerns following procedures outlined in the main Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead

Steiner Academy Hereford has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Wendy Lane

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Carol Kirk

Steiner Academy Hereford will aim to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where illness/restrictions prevent this then the 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 senior leader will assume responsibility for:

- co-ordinating safeguarding on site;
- updating and managing access to CPOMS;
- liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy);
- communicating with parents with any arising concerns;
- liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

All staff and volunteers, whether in school, or working remotely from home will have access to a trained DSL (or deputy) either by phone or by person.

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

4. Attendance Monitoring

SAH is monitoring attendance in line with the national guidance:

Coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings.

Steiner Academy Hereford will continue to follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

5. Supporting children not in school including vulnerable children

Children with a social worker, looked-after-children, those with an EHCP, or those who are otherwise identified by school/social services as being vulnerable are now 'expected' to attend school, unless there are shielding reasons, or where, following a risk assessment it is deemed that, in the current circumstances, their needs cannot be met as safely at school as at home (*Education and childcare during coronavirus*)

School will continue to support children's social workers, virtual school heads and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners to help protect vulnerable children.

School will continue to keep children's social workers updated as to whether these children have returned to school, and will alert them if children who are expected to attend do not.

For vulnerable children who are not in school, and all other pupils, school will continue to support these children as outlined in *Covid-19 School closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Steiner Academy Hereford.*

6. Children and online safety away from school

SAH remains fully committed to continue to ensure a safe online environment for pupils as it partially reopens and will continue to adhere to the guidance set out in *Covid-19 School closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Steiner Academy Hereford.*

7. Online safety in schools and colleges

Steiner Academy Hereford will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

8. Peer on Peer Abuse

Steiner Academy Hereford recognises that during the partial re-opening phase a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the guidelines set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of the procedures outlined in of the school Safeguarding Policy where possible.

Alternative processes will be put in place to ensure that guidance around social distancing and self-isolation are followed.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

9. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Steiner Academy Hereford will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes.

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

In the event that school utilises volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process 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.

Steiner Academy Hereford will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

If a concern has been raised against a staff member or volunteer we will continue to follow our usual procedures outlined in the Complaints Policy and Procedures or Allegations against staff – Procedures, whichever is relevant.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any 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, school name will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.