



West Exe School

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Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Academy closure arrangements for West Exe School

This policy is a West Exe Policy the advice and guidance shared in this document is in accordance with the full COVID 19 document shared by Babcock/DCC

Policy Written by: Joanne O'Neill

Date: 31st March 2020

Context

During this time West Exe School will continue to safeguard and promote the welfare of all of our students. We will endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment to those students who will continue to attend school and ensure we offer online support to all vulnerable students and their families.

We will continue to follow Keeping Children safe in education (KCSIE) guidance to ensure we follow all current statutory guidance to provide safeguarding and child protection support to all children and their families.

We will continue to be alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. Child protection continues to form part of the school's safeguarding responsibilities

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles will remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children will always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

Key Contacts for West Exe School:

Name	Role	Contact	Email
Simon Weir	Senior Deputy Headteacher	01392 660 100	Simon.Weir@westexe.devon.sch.uk
Jo O'Neill	Safeguarding Lead	07583 145 776	Joanne.O'Neill@westexe.devon.sch.uk
Tim Rutherford	Headteacher	01392 660 100	headteacher@westexe.devon.sch.uk

Child Protection Policy – amendments:

Contact:

- DSL/Safeguarding Lead will be available throughout this time via telephone/email
- All children who have been designated as vulnerable those with EHCP and keyworker children will be welcome to attend school daily

Reporting Concerns:

- Any member of staff who has a safeguarding/CP concern in relation to a child should continue to follow school protocol – inform safeguarding team (call/email) log all concerns on CPOMS – system will be monitored daily
- Any member of staff who has an concern for the safety of a child out of hours should contact MASH – 0345 155 1071 or if urgent 999

Vulnerable Children:

- DSL/Safeguarding lead will continue to work with colleagues in social care and will where possible attend all meeting/conferences and child protection meetings via video/conference call
- DSL/Safeguarding lead will endeavour to make daily/weekly calls to social workers of those students on CIN/CP and CIC plans
- DSL/Safeguarding lead will endeavour to make daily/weekly calls to vulnerable parents/carers/students
- DSL/Safeguarding lead will ensure all calls are logged on the West Exe School 'Safeguarding log sheet'

Safer Recruitment:

- Any new staff joining West Exe school will receive virtual safeguarding training and expectations of all staff will continue
- Any volunteer/ or outside agency attending West Exe School will be DBS checked and all legislation and guidance will continue to be followed in line with safer recruitment guidance. All staff will be expected to follow code of conduct and will need to produce all relevant documentation
- Any member of staff who has a concern in relation to another member of staff/volunteer must follow the Whistleblowing guidance/policy

Transition:

- DSL/Safeguarding lead will continue to liaise with colleges and primary schools to ensure smooth transition for our most vulnerable students – this will include sharing of relevant safeguarding/CP concerns. Information regarding CIN/CP and CIC students and transferring of relevant safeguarding files.

Attendance:

- Attendance will be logged with the Dfe on a daily basis
- Staff will follow all usual protocols for students expected to attend but absent- this will include a phone call to parents/carers to establish reasons for absence

On-line Safety:

- HOY will send out daily term time emails to students – emails will contain advice on 'staying safe in line and how to report a concern'

Peer on peer abuse:

- We will continue to ensure our young people will receive support around any issues within their peer groups. DSL/Safeguarding lead will be in regular contact with our most vulnerable students. All students can contact school staff during this time and there is advice and guidance on our school website for students to access on-line services

Supporting children not in school:

- West Exe School are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our children.
- Where the safeguarding lead and DSL have identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, we will ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.
- Daily/weekly contact is being made to all vulnerable families and logged on our safeguarding spreadsheet – this will include telephone calls/text messages/emails and home visits.
- Safeguarding lead and DSL will continue to work closely with all outside agencies to maximise the effectiveness of our communication plan. Safeguarding lead and DSL will review the plan at least weekly and where concerns arise, the Safeguarding lead/DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.
- Safeguarding messages will be on our school website and social media pages. Safeguarding lead and DSL recognise that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents and carers
- All staff need to be aware of this when setting expectations of pupils' work for them to complete where they are at home.
- Safeguarding lead/DSL will ensure that when we are caring for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.
- This will be individual to each child and any concerns will be recorded and logged on CPOMs.

- West Exe School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. We 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. West Exe School will continually refer to the most recent 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. Where staff have concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – they discuss them immediately with senior leaders.

Please continue to follow all guidance/procedures and policies in the full Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy which can be viewed on the school website.