



SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of all Pupils (School and Nursery)

ADDENDUM – APRIL 2020 COVID-19

Whole School	
Statutory?	
Responsible:	LB
Reviewed:	April 2020
Next Review:	September 2020
Ratified:	April 2020

It is essential to inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) of any concerns you may have regarding the welfare of a child.

SCHOOL DSL AND PREVENT OFFICER: Dr. Lynda Brereton
(with overall responsibility for safeguarding at the school and nursery)
School contact: 01638 662318 or lynda.brereton@fairsteadhouse.co.uk

SCHOOL Deputy DSL and PREVENT Officer: Mrs Suzy Mallen
School contact: 01638 662318 or suzy.mallen@fairsteadhouse.co.uk

NURSERY DSL and PREVENT OFFICER: Mrs Lucie Melen
Nursery contact: 01638 662318 or lucie.melen@fairsteadhouse.co.uk

Governance Lead on Safeguarding: Ms Katie Milne
Contact: kmilne@fairsteadhouse.co.uk

However, if you feel this avenue is not appropriate, or that you feel your concern has not been heard or handled appropriately, you should make a direct referral to:

Suffolk Safeguarding Children's Board
(Floor 3, Gold Block, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2BX, Phone: 01473 265359 Website: <https://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/>)

If you feel a child is in immediate danger then call 999.

If you are concerned about a child then call Customer First (24 hours) on 0808 800 405.

If you would like to discuss whether or not a referral is required, please call the Professional Consultation Line on 0345 606 1499 to speak with a Multi Agency Service Hub (MASH) social worker.

If there is an allegation against a member of staff, the Head or DSL will contact the LADO (on duty) on 0333 013 9797 or on LADO@suffolk.gov.uk

If an allegation of child abuse involves the Head (Lynda Brereton), the Safeguarding Governor, Katie Milne, will be contacted directly by the DSL and one of them will contact the LADO on 0333 013 9797 without the Head's knowledge.

To contact the NSPCC regarding a concern about the handling of a safeguarding incident within school, please visit their website - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/whistleblowing-advice-line/> or call 0800 028 0285 or e-mail help@nspcc.org.uk

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Nothing is too trivial. If you have any concern whatsoever about the wellbeing of a pupil, it must be referred the same day to one of the Designated Safeguarding Officers. Their names and contact details are above, on the back of staff ID badges and displayed on noticeboards around the Nursery and School.

Statement

Following the government announcement of school closures and the continued provision of remote learning to Fairstead House pupils, this appendix sets out the arrangements by which the governing body of Fairstead House discharges its responsibilities relating to the safeguarding and the welfare of children who are pupils at Fairstead House.

This appendix will be brought to the attention of staff at the start of the Summer Term as part of INSET.

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible and where it was safer to do so. Nurseries and Schools are to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response and children who are vulnerable, with an EHCP or have an allocated Social Worker.

The School has taken due account of the latest DfE interim safeguarding guidance regarding COVID-19 (issued 27 March 2020) as an update to Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2019). Fairstead House is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students and to the following safeguarding principles:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a nursery or 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.

Related Guidance and Policies for safeguarding with remote learning

This addendum is to be read with the following guidance, policies/ documents. Staff should ensure they are familiar with them:

- Online Safety Policy
- Child Protection Policy (including safeguarding)
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct

Pupils must be reminded of the School's expectations for them to follow the:

- Acceptable Use Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy

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 Plans (EHCP).

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.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and the Deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are.

We 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 will be: Lynda Brereton (DSL).

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 increased 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 the School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, the School or the Social Worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

We will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Attendance Monitoring

Local Authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. If the School has any children in attendance (e.g. because they are vulnerable or their parent(s) / carers are critical workers) we will submit the daily attendance sheet to the DfE by 12 noon - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>

The School is also sending this information to the Local Authority via a local survey to inform local planning for children in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. If the School has closed, we will complete the return once as requested by the DfE. The School and Social Workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – the School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. The School 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. To support the above, we will, when communicating with parents and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are

correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available. In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at Fairstead House or discontinues, we will notify their Social Worker.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Fairstead House has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) a Designated Safeguarding Lead for the Nursery and Deputy DSL.

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Lynda Brereton
- The Nursery Designated Safeguarding Lead is Lucie Melen
- The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Suzy Mallen

We will endeavour to have a trained DSL (or deputy DSL) available on site. Where this is not possible, a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or email.

It is important that all Fairstead House staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, the staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to contact them. The DSL will continue to engage with Social Workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which are being held remotely.

Reporting a Concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the Fairstead House Safeguarding (including Child Protection) Policy.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children at Fairstead House, they should report the concern to either Lynda Brereton or to the Chair of Governors, Jonathan Edge.

Concerns around the Head should be directed to Jonathan Edge.

Safeguarding Training and Induction

The Local Authority Education Safeguarding Team is providing advice and guidance, where needed, to schools through a dedicated helpline. All existing Fairstead House staff have had safeguarding training and have read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Fairstead House they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of Fairstead House's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, guidance on local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

Online Safety with Remote Learning at Fairstead House

Fairstead House will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where children are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Children and Online Safety away from Fairstead House

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

School closures bring lots of challenges for both school staff and parents, and both are increasingly looking to the benefits of technology to continue delivering some form of learning experience for children.

As always, there are huge benefits to be gained from the appropriate use of technology and accessing learning resources whilst at home is a great example of this. However, parents (and teachers) need to be aware of the potential risks that go along with this.

The School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements and has provided appropriate guidance to staff and pupils.

Supporting Children not in Nursery or School

Fairstead House is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and young people. Where the DSL has identified a child about whom there have been concerns but not currently open to social care, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan will be recorded, as should a record of all contact made.

The School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan. This plan must be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

If we are unable to contact a child about whom there have been concerns after a reasonable number of attempts, we may need to seek further advice about safe and well checks.

Fairstead House will share safeguarding messages on its website.

We 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/carers. Teachers at Fairstead House need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Supporting Children in Nursery or School

Fairstead House is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children.

Fairstead House will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Head will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Fairstead House will refer to the 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.

Fairstead House will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Fairstead House recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where we receive a report of peer on peer abuse, the School will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within the Fairstead House Safeguarding (including Child Protection) 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. Concerns and actions must be recorded, and appropriate referrals made.