

Addendum to Ballykeel Primary School & Nursery Unit Child Protection Policy Covid-19 Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

1. CONTEXT

From 20 March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of key workers and children who are vulnerable.

The current national health concerns relating to Covid-19 creates uncertainty in the lives of children and young people. Daily routines, family life, friendship groups and the safe space that schools provide have been disrupted. For many children, the need to spend most of their day at home will bring an additional challenge, and for some this will be an additional safeguarding risk factor. It is important that the adults responsible for safeguarding children are sensitive to their physical, social and emotional needs in these most unusual circumstances. It is critically important that children who are or may be at risk are identified so that a proportionate, compassionate and sensitive response can be taken.

2. PROCEDURES

Staff will continue to follow the procedures outlined in our school's Child Protection Policy which is available on our school website.

In addition, the following arrangements have been put in place to support families and monitor pupil safety:

- The school email address, teachers' email addresses and main school phone number have been made available to all parents.
- Teachers provide online learning via the school website with strict procedures in place to minimise risk.
- The website provides parents with a range of resources and links to additional online learning, support and guidance.
- We would remind everyone to stay safe when using online resources and to report any concerns to a member of the safeguarding team.
- The School's Jigsaw worker remains available for phone consultation and parents are made aware of this via the website.
- In line with the information previously provided to schools by the EA CPSS, teachers may make phone calls to parents. These will be pastoral in nature and a record will be kept of any issues reported by parents. Any concerns around pupil well-being will be shared without delay with a member of the Safeguarding team.

- If a member of staff is using their personal telephone their number will be withheld to ensure the protection of private information of staff

3. HOW A PARENT CAN RAISE AN ISSUE OR EXPRESS A CONCERN

We would welcome parents asking for advice and help if they have concerns about their child's well-being or safety. Asking for help is a protective factor and parental concerns and requests for help will always be taken seriously.

Any member of staff will listen carefully to parental concerns and ensure that the request for help, if necessary, is brought to the attention of a member of the safeguarding team. In this case a decision can be made as to how best to provide help.

4. IF SCHOOL IS OPEN DURING COVID-19 CLOSURES

Our school is open for vulnerable pupils and key workers' children and we adhere to the EA guidance (<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/guidance-schools-cluster-arrangements>).

As Ballykeel PS & Nursery Unit is part of a cluster of schools which are open we will share relevant safeguarding information with the Designated Teacher and/or Principal. In accordance with our Child Protection procedures this information will be shared on a need to know basis.

In any event, we will follow current Department of Education and Department of Health guidelines regarding social distancing, hygiene and personal protective equipment to ensure the safety of both pupils and staff.

5. HOW A CHILD CAN RAISE A CONCERN

We know that while many children will be enjoying their time at home and remain almost unaffected by this unusual situation, there will be others who feel scared, lonely and even those who miss school. Our safeguarding responsibility to all our children continues and we will seek to maintain contact with our children and young people as well as signpost them to other agencies.

We will use the following means to connect with our children and young people:


- Respond to emails.
- Respond to any concerning comments our young people post on social media.
- All our children will be given an email address as one way to connect with school / their teacher
- Other Agencies

6. SOME USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS: –

- School telephone number – 028 25653902
- School email address / Principal email address – info@ballykeelps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk
- School website address – www.ballykeelps.org.uk
- Designated Teacher (Mr J Fisher) email address – bpsp6jf@gmail.com
- Deputy Designated Teacher (Mrs J Thompson) – bpsp2jt@gmail.com
- Deputy Designated Teacher (Mrs S Muller) - BPSNurSM@gmail.com
- <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/coronavirus>
- <https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline/report-harmful-content>
- <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

7. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Safeguarding team will review and amend these arrangements regularly during the period of Covid-19 school closure in line with Departmental guidance and advice.

SIGNED: J.Fisher	Designated Teacher
SIGNED: 	Principal
SIGNED: A Kennedy	Chair of Board of Governors
DATE: June 2020	