



YARLET SCHOOL

Temporary Policy Addendum:

COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Yarlet School

This Policy addendum is effective from 4th January 2021
until the school fully reopens

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| School Name: | Yarlet School |
| Policy owner: | Yarlet School Governors |
| Date: | 26 th January 2021 |
| Date shared with staff: | 26 th January 2021 |

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Yarlet School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and two Deputy DSLs.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Ian Raybould

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Nicky Burrows-Berry

The Deputy Deputy Safeguarding Lead is: Stephanie Dewey

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school's Safeguarding Children 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 in the school, they should report the concern to the Headmaster.

If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headmaster whilst away from school, this should be done verbally over the phone and followed up with an email to the Headmaster to confirm the discussion.

Concerns around the Headmaster should be directed to the Chair of Governors.

Safeguarding Training and induction

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL will 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 Yarlet School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

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, Yarlet School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (KCSIE).

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that: -

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Where Yarlet School is utilising volunteers, it 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.

Yarlet School 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.

Yarlet School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the pandemic, 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, Yarlet School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Volunteers

Yarlet School may use volunteers to assist in handing out and securing COVID-19 test kits to students and staff members. Other duties may be required such as administering test kits, recording results, cleaning down areas and directing people.

Under no circumstances will a volunteer in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Volunteers who, on an unsupervised basis provide personal care on a one-off basis in Yarlet School, will be in regulated activity. This means that if a volunteer is administering a COVID-19 test whilst un-supervised, they will be in regulated activity and therefore require an Enhanced DBS with Barred List check.

Existing volunteers in regulated activity do not have to be re-checked if they have already had a DBS check (which includes barred list information).

Supervision must be:

- by a person who is in regulated activity.
- regular and day to day; and
- reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children.

In appointing volunteers, the school will follow safer recruitment processes.

Online safety in school

Yarlet School 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.

Children and online safety away from school

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 Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in Yarlet's code of conduct.

Yarlet School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider when there are virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- Avoid 1:1s if at all possible, seeking approval from a senior leader if required.
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms.
- Teachers should consider recording lessons so that if any issues were to arise, the recording could be reviewed.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms specified by senior leaders.

Supporting children not in school

Yarlet School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, 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.

The communication plans can include remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Yarlet 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.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Yarlet School recognises 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 Yarlet School will be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Supporting children in school

Yarlet School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

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

Yarlet School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

Yarlet School 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.

Where Yarlet School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – we will discuss them immediately with governors.

Peer on peer abuse

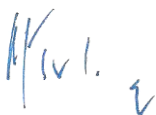
Yarlet School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of our Safeguarding Children Policy.

The school will listen and work with children and parents/carers and any multi-agency partner/s required to ensure the safety and security of children.



Ian Raybould
Headmaster



Nick Tarling
Acting Chair of Governors