

## Part II Covid19 Phased Return

**Added May 25th in response to Government Guidelines:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

### Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible and where it was safer to do so to slow to spread of Covid-19. Many children will continue to remain at home during the initial stages of the phased return. However, from 1<sup>st</sup> June, we expect to be able to welcome more children back to Havelock Infant and Junior Schools. Priority will continue to be given to providing school places for 'key worker' children (those children of workers critical to the Covid-19 response) and those classed as vulnerable, with an EHCP or have an allocated Social Worker.

The phased return has been carefully planned with reference to Department for Education guidance:

- Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020
- Implementing Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings
- Covid-19 Safeguarding in Schools, Colleges and Other Providers

This revised addendum of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements during this time, to protect all children, whether attending school or remaining at home, from harm and abuse.

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Havelock Infant and Havelock Junior Schools are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. The following safeguarding principles remain unchanged:

- The best interests of children must always continue to come first;
- If anyone in a school or college 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.

## **1. Continuing to support Children In School**

Our school is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Our school will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement protective measures including social distancing: [implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)

The school continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of Covid-19.

Havelock Infant and Havelock Junior School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. We recognise that for some children the return to school after an extended period of time at home will be challenging and staff will support children to adjust to the necessary changes to the school environment and routines. Supporting pupil wellbeing will be at the forefront of our approach and school staff will seek to provide reassurance to pupils as we manage the transition period. Staff will talk to the children about the changes to the school day in an age appropriate manner, acknowledge and listen to pupil anxieties and support children to understand the altered routines.

Our school recognises that the current circumstances may adversely affect the mental health of children and their parents. School staff have been briefed to look out for changes in behaviour or in a child's emotional state, which could range from being excessively clingy, fearful, withdrawn or aggressive as more children return to school. As always, pupil wellbeing is at the heart of our work, and school staff will seek to provide appropriate support for pupils both in school and where required from specialist services.

Havelock Infant and Havelock Junior Schools recognise that for some children, home may not be a safe space, and there may be children who are relieved to return to school. School staff have been reminded of the need to respond sensitively to pupils' differing experiences during the period of school closure. School staff have been asked to be particularly vigilant, as more children return to school, for signs and indicators that a child may have experienced abuse or neglect. School staff have been trained about how to handle a disclosure from a child, and understand that any safeguarding concerns, including those that relate to the period of school closure, must be referred immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputies) in the usual way.

Prior to children returning to school, parents and carers will be asked to ensure that all personal details held by the school, such as emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available. At this time, parents and

carers will also be asked to advise the school if there are any changes regarding the child's welfare, health and wellbeing that it would help school to be made aware of. Where the school is aware of particular circumstances affecting a child or family, such as bereavement, a relationship breakdown, an incident of domestic violence, this will be shared with staff on a need-to-know basis so that children can be best supported.

## **2. Continuing to Support Children Not in School**

Havelock Infant School and Havelock Junior School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and young people.

Our school recognise that some children will not be eligible to return to school immediately due to the phased nature of re-opening, and that some parents/carers of children eligible to attend may choose not to send them to school at this time.

## **3. Vulnerable children**

All vulnerable children continue to be eligible to attend school full time during the period of phased opening. This applies regardless of whether their year group is due to return to school as part of the phased return, and regardless of whether they had chosen to access school provision prior to the phased return.

Vulnerable children include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and it is determined, following risk assessment ([risk assessment guidance](#)), that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
- have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued attendance. This might include children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training'), those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers and others at the school and local authority's discretion

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a Social Worker will attend an education setting, unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable. 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 Havelock Infant and Havelock Junior School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Our school and Social Workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – our school will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. (see further guidance PART I)

## **4. Attendance monitoring**

Havelock Infant School and Havelock Junior School will resume taking attendance registers from 1 June and continue to complete the Pathfinder Schools Setting Status form which gives the Trust daily updates on how many children and staff are attending:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>.

Our school will continue to follow up with any parent/carer if they were expecting the child to attend and they subsequently do not attend school. Non-attendance will be followed up in line with the school's normal attendance protocols.

Our school will continue to inform Children's Social Care if a child with a Social Worker does not attend school.

## **5. Safeguarding Training and Induction**

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus. In the interim, Designated Safeguarding Leads continue to keep themselves up to date with safeguarding developments through updates from the Education Safeguarding Team, accessing the Knowledge Hub and via the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board communications and website.

## **6. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff**

There is no requirement to obtain a new DBS check for returning staff who have continued to be employed but have not been working in regulated activity during partial school closures. If for any reason the school have concerns about an individual, new checks will be obtained in the usual way.

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, our school will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

The SCR will log everyone that will be working or volunteering in school on any given day, including any staff who may be on loan from other institutions. The SCR will log details of any risk assessments carried out on volunteers and staff on loan from elsewhere.]

## **7. Radicalisation**

School staff have received training about Prevent. The school has a Prevent Lead: Kier Dicken. All school staff are aware of the need to treat concerns about radicalisation as safeguarding concerns, and immediately share them with their Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputies). DSLs continue to refer concerns about radicalisation to partner agencies, including Channel Panel which remains operational, in line with usual procedures.

The Department for Education has also published information here on [prevent management support for schools and colleges](#).

## **8. Children moving schools**

As always, where children join our school from other settings we will seek confirmation from the DSL whether they have a Safeguarding File or SEN statement/EHCP. This file must be provided

securely before the child begins at our school and a call made from our DSL or a deputy to the placing school's DSL to discuss how best to keep the child safe.

In some unusual circumstance this may not be possible. Information provided must include contact details for any appointed Social Worker and where relevant for the Virtual School Head.

Safeguarding information about children placed in our school will be recorded on our safeguarding system, will be securely copied to the placing school DSL and will be securely returned to the placing school on completion of the child's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the child.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment in respect of any new information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know about the information. This will be recorded on our safeguarding recording system.

**This policy has been remotely approved by Governors on 11/06/20**



**Executive Head Teacher**

**Havelock Infant and Junior School**



**Chair of Governors**