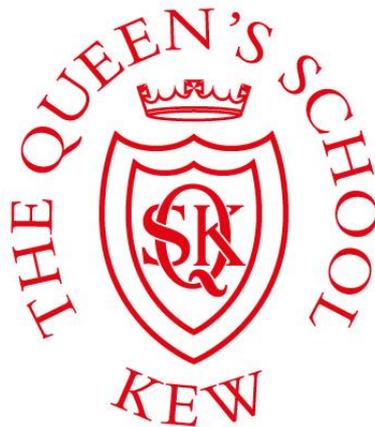


Annexe1.

# COVID-19 School closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection



The Queen's School

Agreed by: **The Queen's School Governing Board**

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

To be reviewed as necessary

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## Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

## Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact Number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead <b>Co-Headteachers (Acting)</b>	<b>Voulla Demetriou</b> <b>Jenny Stroud-Turp</b>	07974826718 07981295433	<a href="mailto:vdemetriou@queens.richmond.scgh.uk">vdemetriou@queens.richmond.scgh.uk</a> <a href="mailto:jstroud-turp@queens.richmond.sch.uk">jstroud-turp@queens.richmond.sch.uk</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	<b>Hilary Wilson</b> <b>Assistant Head</b>  <b>Polly Watkinson</b> <b>(Senco)</b>	07530386259  07779791557	<a href="mailto:hwilson@queens.richmond.sch.uk">hwilson@queens.richmond.sch.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:pwatkinson@queens.richmond.sch.uk">pwatkinson@queens.richmond.sch.uk</a>
Co-Headteachers	<b>Voulla Demetriou</b> <b>Jenny Stroud-Turp</b>	As above	<a href="mailto:vdemetriou@queens.richmond.scgh.uk">vdemetriou@queens.richmond.scgh.uk</a> <a href="mailto:jstroud-turp@queens.richmond.sch.uk">jstroud-turp@queens.richmond.sch.uk</a>
Safeguarding Governor	<b>Emma Roberts</b>	Email	<a href="mailto:eroberts@queens.richmond.sch.uk">eroberts@queens.richmond.sch.uk</a>
Chair of Governors - safeguarding	<b>Bethany Claus</b> <b>Widick</b>	07951859829	<a href="mailto:bwidick@queens.richmond.sch.uk">bwidick@queens.richmond.sch.uk</a>
<b>AfC Education Safeguarding Adviser</b>	<b>Linda Sheehan</b>	<b>07774686362</b>	<a href="mailto:linda.sheehan@achievingforchildren.org.uk">linda.sheehan@achievingforchildren.org.uk</a>
<b>AfC Adviser for Online Services and Safety</b>	<b>Peter Cowley</b>	<b>07595173975</b>	<a href="mailto:peter.cowley@achievingforchildren.org.uk">peter.cowley@achievingforchildren.org.uk</a>
<b>AfC Virtual School Headteacher</b>	<b>Suzanne Parrott</b>	<b>07827895894</b>	<a href="mailto:suzanne.parrott@achievingforchildren.org.uk">suzanne.parrott@achievingforchildren.org.uk</a>

**SPA:** 020 8547 5008    **Out of Hours:** 020 8770 5000

**LADO:** 020 8891 7370  
07774332675  
[lado@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:lado@achievingforchildren.org.uk)

## 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 (EHC) plans.

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.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home, during term time.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

The Queen's School 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 Headteacher (VSH) for children looked-after and previously looked-after. The lead person for this will be: Polly Watkinson (Senco)

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 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 Queen's School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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

The Queen's School 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.

The Queen's School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school. The Queen's School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. The Queen's 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, The Queen's School will, when communicating with parents/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 school, or discontinues, The Queen's School will notify their social worker.

The Queen's School will complete the Government's [daily online attendance form](#) and supply any information regarding attendance requested by Achieving for Children.

## Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Queen's School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Voulla Demetriou & Jenny Stroud-Turp

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Hilary Wilson & Polly Watkinson

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.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This might include updating and managing access to child protection files, liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and, as required, liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school.

It is important that all Queen's school staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to speak to them. The DSL and First aiders will be written on the staffroom white board.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

## Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding and 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 in the school, they should report the concern to the Headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Headteacher.

Concerns regarding the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors, responsible for safeguarding: Bethany Widick

## Safeguarding training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training. DSL training at The Queen's School is up to date, all DSLs and deputies having completed Level 3 training within the last 6 months.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding level 2 training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). 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 The Queen's School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

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

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of The Queen's School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements and emergency procedures.

If staff from The Queen's School are required to work at another school in the locality, they will need to ensure that they receive the following information, on arrival:

- Emergency procedures
- Safeguarding reporting protocol
- Contact details for DSL

They will need to take the following with them:

- DBS certificate number
- School ID

## 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, The Queen's School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes, including relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

Where The Queen's School are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

The Queen's 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 Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019).

The Queen's School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral. During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing [Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk)

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, The Queen's School will continue to ensure that all staff, volunteers and essential visitors sign in and out of the premises and will continue to keep the Single Central Record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019).

## Online safety

The Queen's School Online Safety Lead is: Paul Adams . If the Online Safety Lead is unavailable, advice can be sought from Peter Cowley (AfC Adviser for Online Services and Safety).

The Queen's School will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect pupils when they are online on the school's IT systems or recommended resources.

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

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

Virtual lessons will not be delivered and webcams will not be used. Communication with all pupils will be via google classroom and will be monitored by The Queen's School staff.

### Supporting children not in school

The Queen's School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils.

Where the DSL has identified a pupil 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 pupil. All contacts with the pupil must be recorded.

The communication plans can include: remote contact; phone contact; door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded. The Queen's School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and any communications to families.

The Queen's 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 The Queen's School will take this into consideration when setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

The Queen's school will ensure that the website supports the well-being of pupils and families and will post useful links and articles and signpost families to relevant activities/information.

If parents are considering using an online tutor, although this will not be encouraged or recommended by the school, they will be advised by the school to ensure they are present during the sessions and only use a reputable company with references and ideally a personal recommendation.

### Supporting children in school

The Queen's School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils. The Queen's School 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.

The Queen's School 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.

The Queen's 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. This will be bespoke to each pupil.

Where The Queen's School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – we will discuss them immediately with our School Improvement Partner (SIP)/Link Adviser

### Children moving schools

If any pupils are temporarily attending other schools or transfer to another school, The Queen's School will ensure that they provide the receiving school will all relevant welfare and child protection information.

Any change of school for children looked after will be led and managed by the Virtual School Headteacher with responsibility for the child.

The Queen's School continues to have appropriate regard to data protection and GDPR and are aware that they do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe.

### Mental health

The Queen's School is aware that negative experiences and distressing life events such as the current circumstances can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents.

The Queen's School will ensure that appropriate support is in place for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children whilst on site.

The Queen's School will continue to offer support to pupils who are not on site, this will be done remotely or by phone.

Vulnerable families and pupils with EHCP plans will be identified and a weekly well-being check in call or if not possible an email. This will be undertaken by the Deputy DSL (Senco), or another DSL.

These calls will be:

- 5 minutes duration
- carried out with the parent
- recorded on CPOMS - actions/ outcomes/ update
- Prefixed by 141 before dialling, to retain privacy of number

The Queen's School will ensure that all pupils have contact details for appropriate support services, these will be shared on the school website:

KOOTH is an online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people <https://www.kooth.com/>

Young minds has a section on supporting children through COVID 19:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

BBC also has resources on COVID 19, specifically for children:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround#more-stories-2>

## Peer on peer abuse

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

The Queen's School will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) and our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded using the school's procedure and appropriate referrals made.

## Domestic violence

The Queen's School recognises that as a result of Coronavirus outbreak, many victims of Domestic Abuse face additional challenges and barriers to accessing support. While self-isolating, families will spend extended periods of time together and it is recognised that controlling behaviour and/or tensions may rise, escalating the risk of abuse and violence. It is vital that in this difficult time agencies from voluntary and statutory sectors continue working together to safeguard vulnerable families. Identification of domestic abuse cases though routine enquiry is paramount, as is providing advice to victims on where to seek help as well as making timely referrals to support services. Key services are open.

### **The main domestic abuse services to contact:**

Richmond borough - Refuge Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) and Outreach Service 020 8943 8188 Monday – Friday 9am-5pm

Referrals to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) MARAC meetings continue to take place via teleconference calls, Should you identify a high-risk case of domestic abuse, please refer Richmond cases to [RichmondMARAC@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:RichmondMARAC@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

NHS information regarding domestic Violence has links for men and women to access:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/getting-help-for-domestic-violence/>