

**Addendum to GORTIN PRIMARY SCHOOL Child Protection Policy  
 Covid-19 Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection**

<b>SIGNED:</b>	<b>Designated Teacher</b>
<b>SIGNED:</b>	<b>Principal</b>
<b>SIGNED:</b>	<b>Chair of Board of Governors</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	

**1. Context**

The current national health concerns relating to Covid-19 create 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, spending most of their day at home will bring/or will have brought additional challenges, 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 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, main school phone number and an emergency mobile number have been made available to all parents via the newsletter. Parents have been informed that the DT is available at all times during school hours on this number. **02881648268**
- Teachers provide online learning via the school website/ seesaw
- 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.

- 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 on the day of the concern.
- 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. Online Safety**

In order to ensure the safety of all involved the following guidance should be followed if staff and pupils are engaging in online teaching/communication using video conferencing or platforms recommended by and available via C2K.

- Teachers and pupils need to be fully dressed and should not wear pyjamas/sleep wear during the session.
- Students cannot participate from a bedroom.
- The teacher arranges the session and password and shares this only with pupils.
- Pupils must agree not to share the password with anyone else.
- Parental consent will be sought before their child attends online sessions.
- A disclosure or concern over any online forum will be followed up as it would be in school.
- Online sessions should be time limited for the benefit of both children and teachers.

**If there is a breach to any of these procedures e.g. pupil gives the password to someone else who joins the group the teacher should immediately terminate the session and advise the Principal.**

### **4. 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.

### **5. In the Event of Partial School Closures**

If school is open for vulnerable pupils and key workers' children the school should adhere to PHA and DE guidance.

If our school 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.

## **6. 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 via the c2k email addresses only.
- Respond to any concerning comments our young people post on social media.
- When contacting parents via phone we will always ask to speak to their child or young person.
- All our children will be given an email address as one way to connect with school.

Support from Other Agencies:

- NSPCC Childline
- CEOP
- Safer Schools App

## **7. Some Useful Links and Contact Telephone Numbers: –**

**Mrs Wallace – [iwallace417@c2kni.net](mailto:iwallace417@c2kni.net)**

**Mrs Allen – [lallen521@c2kni.net](mailto:lallen521@c2kni.net)**

**Mrs Hawkes – [jhawkes400@c2kni.net](mailto:jhawkes400@c2kni.net)**

**<https://www.gortinps.com/safeguarding-child-policies.html>**

- <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/>

## 8. Monitoring and Review

The Safeguarding team will review and amend these arrangements as needed in line with Departmental guidance and advice.

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