

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

COVID-19

Annex September 2020

(This addendum of the Madani Primary School Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our plan for any further disruption of Covid-19 after school reopening in September 2020.)

Context

Madani Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children. This commitment remains the same in the difficult circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 outbreak, and will be a key concern as the school prepares to welcome pupils back for the new academic year.

According to government plan to reopen schools to all pupils in September 2020, but there may be periods of further disruption. Whether the school is open to all pupils, partially open or closed with Guided Home Learning in operation, the principles and practices of the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020, the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Procedures (including the Code of Conduct) will continue to apply.

To ensure the safety and welfare of children, the school will also follow the latest DfE guidance, together with other relevant guidance and advice as this is published and updated.

If there is any further disruption in future, the following procedures will also apply:

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Madani Primary School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Husne Hannah Nishat Rahman

Tel: 02392 830764/07565454632 Email: nishat.rahman@madani-academy.org

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Fatima Wahid

Tel: 02392830/07967555268 Email: Fatima.wahid@madani-academy.org

A member of the DSL team will always be available during school hours. 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 designated senior member of staff will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include 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 our staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of that person is and how to speak to them. 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's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff have concern about an adult working with children in the school, they should again continue to follow our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

Attendance

Attendance issues may be an indicator of safeguarding concerns. Pupils, both on site and learning remotely, will be registered and the school will follow up on any absence. Where a vulnerable child does not attend, the school will also notify their social worker. No one with COVID-19 symptoms should come into school for any reason.

Ensuring safety in school

The school will continue to use relevant guidance published by the Government, Public Health England and the Health and Safety Executive to inform arrangements and decision making to ensure the school remains safe for pupils and staff. Safeguarding will be a key consideration of all risk assessments carried out and revised and updated for the new academic year. Appropriate staff will always be on site to maximise safety, and everyone on site should know how to contact the DSL(s), deputy DSL(s) and First Aiders.

Online Learning

The school will provide a safe environment for online learning. All pupils and staff must remind themselves of and adhere strictly to the Online Safety Policy, Social Media Policy and Code of conducts etc.

Mental Health and Pastoral Support

We recognise that the impact of the pandemic could have a significant effect on the mental health and wellbeing of all members of the school community, and there will be a particular focus on pastoral care as pupils return to school. Staff will remain vigilant for signs of safeguarding risk or emotional distress – keeping in mind that new concerns may come to light as pupils return.

Pupils or parents with a pastoral concern should contact the Salma Rahman or Headteacher.

Pastoral concerns will be addressed initially by the class teacher who may involve the Salma Rahman or HT depending on the nature of the issue

Safeguarding concerns should be reported to the DSL. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. The revised statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 highlights the fact that mental health problems can be an indicator of a safeguarding concern. Where a pupil is known to the school or newly identified as being in need, the DSL will ensure that a communication and support plan is in place for that child. This may include email, phone or online video contact. The plan will be reviewed regularly and should concerns arise the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

All safeguarding and pastoral concerns will be recorded, and information will be shared appropriately so that all relevant staff are aware of the support needs or child protection issues of the children in their care. The school will liaise with parents and carers wherever possible to ensure pastoral records remain up to date and staff are aware of any changes to welfare, health or wellbeing before a child returns to school.

If children move between schools, welfare and child protection information will be shared as required.

Vulnerable Children

The school will continue to work with and support children's social workers and local authority virtual school heads to help protect vulnerable children. This will include liaising with relevant providers and ensuring that vulnerable children and those on the edge of receiving social care support can attend/return to school where appropriate, or monitoring their safety, wellbeing and welfare if they are unable to attend school.

Working in partnership

We continue to work closely with our local safeguarding partners and other local agencies.