



Brown's School

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION AT BROWN'S SCHOOL

This Policy addendum is effective from 8th March 2021

On Monday 22nd February 2021, The Prime Minister announced the Government's roadmap to cautiously ease lockdown restrictions in England. This included a direction that from 8th March 2021, all pupils should attend school.

Brown's School is a specialist school and most pupils have an EHC Plan therefore those children have been offered a place in school for the majority of the school week since 6th January 2021, following a robust school risk assessment. During this time, the school has followed Government guidance, testing both pupils and staff and followed advice from Public Health England.

Brown's School will continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 – updated in January 2021 following the UK leaving the European Union. Key staff have reflected on the updated advice.

We will continue to 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, face coverings and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19.

This addendum of Brown's School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements.

Key contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Denise Mitchell	01689 876816 07717 747572	info@brownsschool.co.uk
Acting Headteacher	George Mitchell	01689 876816	georgemitchell@brownsschool.co.uk
Chair of Governors	Sarah Mortiboys	01689 876816	sarahmortiboys@brownsschool.co.uk



Vulnerable Children

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- ∞ are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children's Act 1989, including children and young people 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;
- ∞ have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - ∞ children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - ∞ adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - ∞ those at risk of becoming NEET (not in employment, education or training)
 - ∞ those living in temporary accommodation
 - ∞ those who are young carers
 - ∞ those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
- ∞ care leavers
- ∞ others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Brown'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 head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for Looked After Children will be George Mitchell, Acting Headteacher.

In circumstances where a parent/carer is hesitant about or does not want to bring their child to school, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Designated Safeguarding Lead at Brown's school will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID-19, Brown's School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Brown's School will encourage all pupils to attend school.



Attendance Monitoring

We expect all pupils to attend school.

Parents/carers are expected to contact the school on the first day of illness by 10am and inform us of the reason for absence so that the correct attendance codes can be used in every case of absence. We expect parents/carers to make contact to make us aware of the status of any COVID-19 tests that have become necessary and to update the school on the welfare of their child.

From 8th March 2021 we will record attendance in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended) for all pupils.

A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- ∞ have symptoms or have had a positive test result
- ∞ live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- ∞ are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19.

The advice for pupils who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. They are advised not to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally.

For children self-isolating, quarantining or shielding we will use code X.

In compliance with the Remote Education Temporary Continuity Direction we will provide remote education to pupils who are unable to attend school because they are complying with Government guidance or legislation around COVID-19.

Also, we will offer pastoral support to pupils who are:

- ∞ self-isolating
- ∞ shielding
- ∞ vulnerable (and off-school)

The Department of Education expects schools to grant applications for leave in exceptional circumstances. This should be recorded as code C (leave of absence authorised by the school) unless another authorised code is more applicable.

Where pupils are not able to attend school, as they are following clinical or public health advice related to COVID-19, the absence will not be penalised.



Reporting a Concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school's 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 use a concern form to report the concern to the Acting Headteacher.

Concerns around the Acting Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors, Sarah Mortiboys (details above).

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 should 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, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction by the DSL.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

When recruiting new staff, Brown's 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) (as amended, January 2021).

Where Brown'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 KCSIE.

Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Online safety in schools

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

Brown's 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 delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- ∞ No 1:1s, groups only
- ∞ 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; and the background should be blurred.
- ∞ Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- ∞ Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- ∞ Staff must only use platforms specified and approved by the Acting Headteacher to communicate with pupils.
- ∞ Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

Supporting children not in school as they are following clinical or public health advice related to COVID-19.

Brown's School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

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 will include texts, emails and phone calls. Other individualised contact methods may be considered and recorded.

Brown'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.

Brown'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 Brown's School are aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.



Supporting children in school

Brown's School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Brown's School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.

Brown'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.

Brown's School will ensure that appropriate support is offered to all students with respect to their mental health.

Elective Home Education (EHE)

Brown's School will encourage parents to send their children to school, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Where an application is made to educate a child at home, Brown's School will consider whether this decision by a parent gives greater cause for concern compared to remaining in school.

Where we feel that there is additional cause for concern, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will then consider making a referral to the local authority in line with existing procedures. This will happen as soon as Brown's School becomes aware of a parent's intention or decision to home educate.

Brown's School will work with local authorities and, where possible, coordinate meetings with parents to ensure EHE is being provided in the best interests of the child.

If a parent wants to admit their child to Brown's School, we will follow our normal processes for admission applications.



Contingency planning

Brown's School will ensure that for individuals or groups of self-isolating pupils and pupils who are shielding, we follow government guidance related to COVID-19 remote education plans.

Brown's School will continue to operate as normally as possible. In the event that restrictions in schools are needed to help contain the spread of the virus, we will refer to the Government's contingency framework which has been updated and outlines how schools should operate in the event of any restrictions.

DFE coronavirus helpline

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Telephone: 0800 046 8687

Bromley coronavirus assistance helpline

0208 313 4484 (weekday office hours)

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Updated by: Jeanette May Shared with staff: