

Addendum to Ulidia Integrated College's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Covid-19 Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

1. CONTEXT

From 20th March 2020, to reduce the spread of Covid-19, parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible. Schools were advised to remain open only for vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

The current national health concerns relating to Covid-19 creates uncertainty in the lives of children and young people. Daily routines, family life, friendship groups and the safe space that school provides have all been disrupted. For many children, the need to spend most of their day at home will provide additional challenges. For some, this will pose an additional safeguarding risk. 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 who maybe at risk are identified so that a proportionate, compassionate and sensitive response can be taken.

2. PROCEDURES

During periods of remote learning, staff will continue to follow the procedures outlined in Ulidia Integrated College's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy within the normal working hours of the school day (9am – 3pm).

In addition, the following arrangements have been put in place to support families and monitor pupil safety:

- The contact details for the College are available on the school website as are the names of the Safeguarding Team: Miss Connolly, Mrs Howe and Mrs McColgan
- Miss Connolly, Designated Teacher for Child Protection will respond to any parents/carers who raise safeguarding or Child Protection concerns and liaise with Social Services or other external agencies as required
- Pupils can send a direct email to the Safeguarding Team using a link on the school website: safeguardingteam@ulidiacollege.com. This is not a 24 hour service but the account will be checked regularly throughout the day and concerns dealt with as soon as possible
- Teachers provide online learning through Google Classroom, using C2K to minimise risk to both pupils and staff
- Both staff and pupils are advised to report any safeguarding concerns around online learning to the Safeguarding Team as soon as possible
- Familyworks, the School Counselling Service, remains available remotely via telephone or video call. Counselling referrals will be co-ordinated by Miss Connolly

- In line with information provided by EA CPSSS and the Department of Education, the College may make contact with parents/carers by telephone. These calls may be pastoral in nature and may share any safeguarding concerns staff have about a child.
- Any concerns about a child or young person's well-being will be shared as soon as possible with parents and other agencies if appropriate. This is on the understanding that the working school day operates from 9am-3pm during remote learning.
- If a member of staff makes a phone call to a parent using their personal phone, their phone number will be withheld to ensure the protection of private staff information.

3. ONLINE SAFETY

To ensure the safety of both pupils and staff, online learning is provided by platforms using and recommended by C2K.

- Pupils and staff must only use c2k email addresses to communicate with each other
- Passwords for Google Classrooms must not be shared by pupils – classrooms should only contain members who would normally have access to the class in school
- Communication between staff and pupils should be professional in tone and nature
- Pre-recorded lessons and live tutorials may be made available by staff. If visible, staff and pupils must be appropriately dressed. For example, pyjamas/sleep wear is not appropriate attire
- The lesson must be recorded or take place in a space that does not share or identify personal or family information
- Pupils must use a more public space in the home for live streamed tutorials. For example, not in their bedroom.
- 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.
- Parental consent will be sought before their child attends online sessions.
- For the protection of staff, pre-recorded lessons or live tutorials must not be used by pupils for any other reason other than for lesson content. Any breach of this will be referred to the Principal.

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. This may result in disciplinary action.

- It is acknowledged that some platforms that are not recommended by C2K may benefit in terms of teaching and learning. Staff wishing to use platforms that are not recommended by C2K, must liaise with the Principal and/or Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection to assess the appropriateness and establish the terms of use, prior to use. The benefit of using such platforms will be carefully weighed up with safeguarding both pupils and staff. All reasonable measures will be implemented by staff to ensure that safeguarding is prioritised.

4. HOW A PARENT CAN RAISE AN ISSUE OR CONCERN

We welcome parents who raise a concern or seek advice or support in relation to their child's well-being and safety. Seeking advice and support is an important parental protective factor and all requests for support or help will 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.

If a parent wishes to contact a member of the Safeguarding Team, the College number: 028 93 358500 can be used. We will endeavour to respond to requests on the same day but appreciate understanding that this will depend on the time of day the call is received.

5. HOW A PUPIL CAN SHARE A CONCERN

We know that many pupils will enjoy the time spent at home and will cope well with the sudden and uncertain changes. However, it is understandable that others may not. They may feel scared, lonely, isolated and unsure about how to seek help or support.

While school operates remotely, our safeguarding responsibilities to all our pupils continue and we will seek to maintain contact with all our young people. We will signpost them to other services and agencies as required.

Pupils can also contact staff via:

- Pastoral Google Classrooms which are monitored by their Form Teacher and Head of Year
- The email accessed via the pupil section on the College website: safeguardingteam@ulidiacollege.com which is monitored by Miss Connolly, Mrs Howe and Mrs McColgan
- Completion of a Weekly Check-In on pastoral Google Classrooms which is monitored by Miss Connolly
- Their school C2K email account

6. VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND CHILDREN OF KEYWORKERS WHO ATTEND SCHOOL DURING LOCKDOWN

Pupils who meet the criteria of a vulnerable child or a child of a key worker and attend school during lockdown will be supervised by school staff.

Disclosures made by pupils or concerns staff may have about pupil safety or well-being should be discussed with the Principal or Vice Principal on duty, as soon as possible. Normal procedures for recording and reporting in a written format should be followed on the same day, if possible.

Concerns will be shared as soon as possible with the Safeguarding Team and normal Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures will be followed.

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.

7. USEFUL LINKS DURING REMOTE LEARNING

Ulidia Integrated College 028 93 358 500

Social Services Carrickfergus 028 93 315114

Single Point of Entry for Social Services Referrals 0300 1234 333

Family Support Hub 028 94 467345

Action for Children 033 123 2112

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/coronavirus>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> - online safeguarding support

<https://ineqe.com/> - online safeguarding support

<https://www.childline.org.uk/> - counselling support

<https://www.lifelinehelpline.info/> - counselling support

Further details on support agencies within the community and nationally are also available on the pastoral section of the College website.

8. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Safeguarding team will review and amend these arrangements regularly during the period of Covid-19 school closure in line with Departmental guidance and advice.

