

Addendum to Edendork Primary School Child Protection Policy Covid-19 Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

1. CONTEXT

From 20 March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of key workers and children who are vulnerable.

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 schools provide have been disrupted. For many children, the need to spend most of their day at home will bring an additional challenge, 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, main school phone number has been made available to all parents. Parents have been informed that the Designated Teacher for Child Protection or a member of the Safeguarding Team is available to speak to Monday – Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm. Alternatively, these members of staff can be contacted through class teachers via the school-home communication app, Dojo.
- Teachers provide online learning via Dojo, Mathletics, Purple Mash, Bugclub and Lexia. with strict procedures in place to minimise risk.
- The Dojo App provides parents with an avenue to 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 the D.T or 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.

- If a member of staff is using their personal telephone their number will be withheld to ensure the protection of private information of staff (add 141 before dialling number)

3. ONLINE SAFETY

In the event of live online lessons and 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.

- All persons involved need to be fully dressed and should not wear pyjamas/sleep wear during the session.
- Students cannot participate from a bedroom.
- Parents should log on pupil at home, but should not be visible during live session.
- The teacher arranges the session and password and shares this only with parents.
- 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. parent gives the password to someone else who joins the group, or if parent is visible, 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 the D.T or a member of the safeguarding team. In this case a decision can be made as to how best to provide help.

5. IF SCHOOL IS OPEN DURING COVID-19 CLOSURES

If Edendork P.S. is open for vulnerable pupils and keyworkers children, we adhere to the EA 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 as well as signpost them to other agencies.

We will use the following means to connect with our children and parents:

- Respond to emails via the c2k email addresses only; communicate through Class Dojo Story / messaging service; school telephone or private mobile (number withheld); video calls via Collaborate Ultra.
- Respond to any concerning comments our children post on social media.
- When contacting parents via phone we will always ask to speak to their child.
- Other Agencies:-

NSPCC Childline

CEOP (Child Exploitation & Online Protection)

Safer Schools App

Here2Help App (for parents)

7. SOME USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS: –

(for reference during Covid-19 school closures)

- Edendork Primary School - 028 8774 0534
- Edendork school-home communication App – Class Dojo
- PSNI – 101
- Armagh/ Dungannon Gateway Team- 028 8771 3506
- <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/>