



**COVID-19 school closure arrangements for
Safeguarding and Child Protection at
Dalmain Primary School**

School Name: Dalmain Primary School
Date: 31/03/2020
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1. Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response.

This addendum of the Dalmain School Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Erika Eisele	0208 699 2675	admin@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Pat Woodhall	0208 699 2675	admin@dalmain.lewishaam.sch.uk
Headteacher	Erika Eisele	0208 699 2675	admin@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Catriona Scott	0208 699 2675	admin@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk
Safeguarding Governor	Claire Witkowski,	0208 699 2675	admin@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the parents and where possible the Local Authority, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Dalmain 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 this will be: Pat Woodhall

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Dalmain School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Children with a social worker should attend the provision unless it is not in the best interest of the child.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Dalmain School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Dalmain School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

Dalmain and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – Dalmain will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Dalmain will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

To support the above, Dalmain will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Dalmain will notify their social worker.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Dalmain school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Erika Eisele

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Patricia Woodhall

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 email - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, My Concern and 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 or college.

It is important that all Dalmain 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 DDSL 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 Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via My Concern, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their My Concern from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Headteacher. This will ensure that the concern is received.

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 email to report the concern to the Headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be made in writing via the School Office using the Complaints Form and addressed to the Chair of Governors, Catriona Scott.

Safeguarding Training and induction

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training. This is unlikely to occur though because both the DSL & DDSL recently completed their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). We have communicated with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

If in the event where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Dalmain, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction although this could be remotely by phone or email.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that: -

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check and have provided us with the relevant DBS number
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual
- that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

If they have a concern while on the Dalmain school site, they will report this to Dalmain's DSL or DDSL and their own DSL / DDSL. They will continue to report via their own Safeguarding channels eg, MyConcern.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. If in the event of recruiting new staff, Dalmain will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for our setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

Where Dalmain 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.

Dalmain will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

Dalmain will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Dalmain will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Online safety in schools and colleges

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

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the MAT code of conduct.

Dalmain will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Dalmain will not be filming lessons or providing virtual learning for the safety of all staff members, pupils and in consideration of GDPR.

Supporting children not in school

Dalmain is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DDSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they will ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

The communication plans can include phone contact or email contact. Parents will be given any relevant information on how to make contact with Dalmain or the DDSL should they need to do so.

Door-step visits and their individualised contact methods will be considered and recorded if it is deemed necessary.

Referrals will be made to the Local Authority MASH team if there are any serious safeguarding concerns.

Dalmain and its DSL / DDSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan will be reviewed regularly, once a fortnight and where concerns arise, the DSL / DDSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages where appropriate.

Dalmain 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 Dalmain need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Dalmain will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site.

Supporting children in school

Dalmain is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Dalmain will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Dalmain 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.

Dalmain will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Where Dalmain has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – the Senior Leadership Team will discuss and agree immediately with the Governors of the school about the next course of action with due consideration to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Dalmain recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions will be recorded on My Concern and appropriate referrals made.

Wider Opening of the school

All the information within this addendum still applies and all staff should continue to follow it.

There are a few points we need to add & be aware of from the DfE guidance May2020. These are:

- All staff should read and follow at all times the COVID19: Risk Assessment and Action Plan document to ensure they safeguard the children & themselves at all times.
- Everyone should be aware of the continued importance of all staff and volunteers acting and acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns whether the child is in school or at home.
- When children return to school staff and volunteers may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they see them in person. If staff and volunteers have any concerns about a child, then staff must report these to DSL's and record their concern on MyConcern.
- Staff should check with DSL's if there is any up to date / relevant information on the family / child that the member of staff may not be aware of, e.g. occurrences during the time the school was closed to the wider community.
- Staff should also make sure that they have made DSL's aware of any changes to circumstances or issues which they are aware have affected pupils and their families.
- Children with ASD should be kept in mind and helped to safeguard themselves. They will find the changes that have been put in place very hard to deal with as well as the change of routines and possible changes of staff. Be aware they may act in an unsafe way as they do not understand what is being expected during wider opening and new rules put in place so will need extra support to do so.
- When wider opening is in place, DSL's and how to contact them remain the same as recorded in the addendum.
- Staff should be aware that in the community as a whole, during lockdown there was a reported increase of domestic violence and child abuse. If they have suspicions that this has been a case for one of our children / families, then they must follow the safeguarding policy when dealing with this and make sure they let DSL's know particular concerns e.g. Domestic Violence so when dealing with the case, if needed, referrals to relevant agencies can be done.
- We will be continuing to do all we reasonably can to ensure children who are not returning to school will be safe online. Information & newsletters sent home have been addressing this. If you have any concerns that someone is acting in an unsafe way while online at home, then inform the DSL's via My Concern.
- We recognise the continued importance for us to work with and support children's social workers, the local authority, virtual school head for looked-after and

previously looked-after children and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners

- Mental health - Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of children and their parents. Mental health issues can bring about changes in a child's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, all of which could be an indication of an underlying problem. Staff should be aware of this & take steps to support children when they are in school. Staff should pass on concerns to relevant members of SLT. Teachers should also be aware of the impact the current circumstances can have on the mental health of those students/pupils (and their parents) who are continuing to work from home.
- All support put in place during wider closure should continue for children who are not returning during wider opening.