ZENITH MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Emergency Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures

In the event of partial or full closure

Aim:

To ensure effective Child Protection and Safeguarding arrangements are in place to monitor and support those deemed as vulnerable.

To offer guidance and support to vulnerable children and families through regular contact, learning materials and other means where possible.

To support Government guidance on any phased closure or return to face to face education including any tier restrictions imposed on the geographical area of the school/s.

Vulnerable Groups:

Those deemed as vulnerable; classified via Government guidance, and those who *pose concerns among Zenith Multi Academy Trust Schools.

- Social Worker involvement (CP/ CIN Plans, LAC/CIC/PLAC)
- EHCP

*Those with more diverse Special Educational Needs but do not have an EHCP

*Those with wider Safeguarding or SEMH concerns

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

Where parents and carers have a concern about a child attending due to anxieties around contracting COVID-19, they should speak to the school and follow guidance from Public Health England.

The school will also provide provision for Critical/ Key workers as identified in the Government guidance. Schools will identify these children through communication with parents and carers.

Learning Resources:

Each school is providing learning through on-line platforms. Children and families who have restricted or no access to internet facilities are being provided with hard copy resources. Whilst Schools remain partially open, learning resources can also be collected from School receptions, parents should be informed if this applies to their child's school. Some schools will provide additional resources to families that require them, whilst they are partially open; parents should be inform if this applies in their child's school.

Each school must ensure they are utilising appropriate Remote Learning resources (Google Classrooms or Microsoft Teams) and following the model guidance for Safe Remote Working as provided by the MAT. Safeguarding measures must be applied to all remote learning and live lessons and schools must also ensure they are following their Online Safety/ E-Safety policy to monitor content accessed due to increased lengths of time that children will be online.

Free School Meals/ Food Support:

For those accessing the school during a partial closure, school canteens will still provide food for those accessing FSM. Children will also be able to collect a shopping voucher from reception; these must be signed for by the child, unless they are of primary age in which case the parent must sign and collect. Some schools; whilst they remain partially open, will have some items available in their reception for those families that may need some additional resources or supplies, schools should inform parents if this applies to them.

Teachers/ Staff:

Staff will be accessible via email communication and phone if appropriate to do so for staff to staff contact. Contact with children and families must only be done via school-based email (for the parent), online learning platforms or

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Edu link. Under no circumstances should staff share personal email, phone details or social media information. Staff who have a concern about the welfare/ safety of a child must report these using the normal safeguarding procedures within the school: C-POMS, MyConcern, and Alert Safeguarding Team. This includes following normal reporting of concerns out of school hours.

Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures:

Partial Closure Procedures –

All identified personnel and contact details remain active as identified in the individual school policy and reporting procedure. Schools will ensure that a trained DSL or deputy will always be in school site. IF there is a situation where this is not possible, they will be contactable via alternative means.

Safeguarding teams (including SEN, CIC/LAC) are still expected to complete any statutory documents, attend planned review meetings and maintain normal levels of contact with external professionals; unless informed otherwise. During a partial closure, some of these vulnerable students will attend school and checks can be made on them whilst they are present. For those who do not attend, phone contact will be made at least weekly unless the child/ren poses a potential higher risk. In this case phone contact should be made more frequently. If there is continued non-contact over a period of a week, the safeguarding team should consider a home visit. A home visit must be conducted with 2 people one of which must be from the safeguarding team. The visit will be a doorstep visit only, where social distancing must be applied and the child/ren must be seen. In the event that no contact is made, normal escalating reporting procedures must be followed – as per the school policy.

Full Closure Procedures -

Phone contact will be made weekly unless the child/ren poses a potential higher risk then phone contact should be made more frequently. Safeguarding teams (including SEN, CIC/LAC) should maintain contact with external professionals. If there is continued non-contact over a period of a week, the safeguarding team should alert Social Services and/or the Police. The school will ensure that the website has appropriate links available for support and advice.

In all circumstances, the school's safeguarding team will continue to work with and support children's social workers and any other relevant external agencies, to help protect vulnerable children. This will include our DSL, Deputies, LAC Co-ordinator and SENCO.

****Personal mobile phones should not be used to make contact****

No paper-based contact information should leave the school. Safeguarding teams should access this information where necessary via school based email, remote access, Edu link.

Schools may wish to add additional appropriate procedures to those outlined above.

Schools must continue to follow the Zenith Multi Academy Trust Safeguarding Training procedures for any new starters and must provide regular training updates to all staff. All procedures relating to safer recruitment including volunteers remain in place as per normal school working procedures.

The Zenith MAT staff code of conduct and CP and safeguarding policy is still applicable. If you have an immediate concern about a child you must follow normal school policy.