

March 2020: Safeguarding Update – COVID 19

- *Any updated advice received from the local safeguarding partners?*

Safeguarding update from Suffolk County Council: Safeguarding information for schools

Where we have safeguarding concerns about a child and/or family should we keep in contact with them?

Where there are safeguarding concerns about a child, the school should continue to undertake regular checks to make sure the child is safe and well. This contact should be in line with the guidance above. Where the school are aware of social care or early help involvement, they should continue communicating with professionals involved.

Should we be undertaking welfare checks on students and if so, how often should these been done?

If you feel that there is a safeguarding concern around the child, it may be appropriate to undertake welfare checks on the child. Outside of this we would expect schools to follow their usual procedures when dealing with children who are absent from school due to illness.

Any updated advice received from local authorities regarding children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need?

No change to this advice.

What should staff and volunteers do if they have any concerns about a student?

If you are concerned about a student, please continue to use My Concern in the normal way. If you believe a student is at immediate risk of significant harm please contact the DSL or Deputy DSL as usual.

DSL (and deputy) arrangements:

Both the DSL and Deputy DSL have remote access to the My Concern Platform and continue to be available during the college week for any support required.

The continued importance for school and college staff to work with and support children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children

Where relevant, our Student Services Team continue to liaise with social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for Children in Care (CiC) also known as looked-after (LAC) and previously looked-after children (PLAC).

Peer on peer abuse - given the very different circumstances schools and colleges are operating in a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims (the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE should continue to inform any revised approach)

If you believe that a student is victim of or at risk of Peer on Peer abuse, please report this in the normal way via My Concern.

Any arrangements to support children the school or college are concerned about who do not meet the 'vulnerable' definition.

For any student safeguarding concerns, please continue to use the online platform (My Concern) for recording and reporting. You can also contact the student's Personal Progress by email and by logging this on Dashboard.

What arrangements are in place to keep children not physically attending the school or college safe, especially online and how concerns about these children should be progressed?

During the college week – at scheduled lesson times, students are being engaged through remote learning using a variety of online platforms and strategies. As such, teaching staff have regular contact with students as do the wider Student Services team.

The Personal Progress Tutors communicate regularly with their tutees and have a comprehensive approach to liaising with those students who are more vulnerable. All staff are confident in using My Concern for recording and reporting purposes.