

Child Protection - New Arrangements during COVID-19

To reflect the current challenges that COVID-19 pandemic present, ERS have updated their Child Protection Policy with this Appendix to ensure our ongoing commitment to working in Partnership with the three Local Safeguarding Partners and other relevant Local Authorities that our pupils belong to. This document will continually be reviewed and evolve as Government Guidance dictates at this time. Key staff at ERS have signed up for daily government updates to ensure we are informed of current guidelines. The DfE COVID-19 helpline is: 0800 046 8687

Irrespective of the challenges we all face at the present time, we recognise our duty to ensure we liaise, collaborate and communicate with other professional/individuals as part of our ongoing safeguarding arrangements.

Safeguarding remains of statutory precedence if not of greater precedence during this pandemic and the challenges it presents.

The main principles are:

- The best interest of children must always come first
 - All safeguarding must continue to be acted upon immediately. If anyone in school has a safeguarding concern about any child in school, this must be acted upon immediately
 - DSLs should be available or contactable at all times
 - The Safer Recruitment Process is still upheld and abided by. It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the workforce or have access to children.
 - Children continue to be protected online.
- 1) There is a focus on Partnership working and the integral role Education plays in its contribution to effective safeguarding arrangement, ensuring that children of critical key workers and vulnerable children can, where required, attend school. ERS staff will continue to work with and support children services to help protect vulnerable pupils.
 - 2) Reporting safeguarding concerns must continue to be reported immediately. At school, this should be reported to the DSL or acting DSL in person, and followed up with a written Record of Concern.

Where staff or members of the community have safeguarding concerns which can no longer be raised in person in the ongoing lockdown, they can be raised through the following channels:

If a child is at immediate risk of significant harm:

- Call Children's Services (which may differ depending on Local authority) Herts: is 0300 123 4043
- Call the police 999 if there are concerns but the child is not at immediate risk of significant harm
- Via email and telephone call to one of the safeguarding team.

DSL@eger-roth.co.uk – Mr Richard Smith (DSL) Tel: 07734 817 807

Sarah.Vest@eger-roth.co.uk – Mrs Sarah Vest (DSL) – Tel: 07815 582 379

Head@eger-roth.co.uk – Mr Colin Parker (Head Teacher) – Tel: 07941 819 748

Governors@eger-roth.co.uk – Mr David Vesey (Director responsible for Safeguarding)

All safeguarding concerns must be put in writing and kept confidential. We ask staff to ensure they call the DSL to inform a safeguarding concern has been sent via email to them. Please title the email Safeguarding. The DSL will confirm receipt of the concern.

Staff should continue to follow child protection and safeguarding procedures outlined in the school's Safeguarding policy if they have a concern about a staff member or volunteer that they feel poses a risk to children – which is to inform the Head Teacher of Safeguarding Director immediately.

- 3) Students with an EHC plan will be risk assessed by the school in consultation with the Local Authority and parents to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a place in school or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. To limit exposure to the Covid-19 virus most pupils should remain at home if their needs can be met and only be in school if the risk assessment deems it necessary. Students who have a social worker can attend school unless in consultation with the social worker and family it is agreed this is not in the best interests of the child.
- 4) Where the needs of vulnerable students cannot be met at home, or where children of critical key workers cannot be accommodated at home, a small number of students may need to access the school site to work under staff supervision during the school day. Critical key workers are defined as parents whose work is critical to the COVID -19 response including those that work in health and social care and other critical areas. Every child that can be safely cared for at home, should be at this present time, to limit the spread of the virus.
- 5) ERS will ensure that there are systems in place to check on any child that that is expected to be in school who does not attend on any day.

School has implemented guidance on hygiene and social distancing provided by the Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

ERS has implemented specific arrangements for Base Leaders to contact any of their vulnerable pupils via phone on a regular basis and to inform Safeguarding of any concerns that may arise from these calls.

Regular on-line check in during remote online lessons with tutors and to enable the pupils to raise any concerns they may have.

Monitoring the engagement of pupils accessing the online learning and identifying any pupils at risk of falling behind or dropping out of contact.

Promotion of wellbeing guidance through Clarion Call and The Egerton and weekly bulletin.

Promotion of e-safety guidance, specifically how students and staff can keep themselves safe online. Communication of this guidance to all parents who are supporting their children to work online and how to report any concerns to the school. Pupils can also access age-appropriate practical support from the likes of:

- [Childline](#). - for support
- [reportharmfulcontent](#).UK safer Internet Centre – to report and remove harmful online content

- [internetmatters](#). Internet Matters – for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [lgfl](#). London Grid for Learning – to support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [net-aware](#). Net-aware – for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [parentinfo](#) Parent info – for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online.
- [thinkuknow](#). Thinkuknow – for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers](#) UK Safer Internet Centre – advice for Parents and Carers

Parents should encourage pupils who are working online to do so in a shared space where possible to keep webcams covered and not stream live images of themselves or others online.

- 6) Peer on Peer abuse and domestic violence. All staff to be alert to the increased risk of peer on peer abuse (particularly online) and domestic violence that can result from isolation and lockdown, and must report any concerns immediately.
- 7) ERS has no provision in place to collaborate with other schools to cluster children and/or staff from multiple settings into one place at present but if this was to change, the principles of KCSiE continue to apply, and this Appendix will be updated to detail the provision in place.

It is vitally important that all staff and volunteers are aware of the revised arrangements in this appendix to the safeguarding policy, and are kept up to date as it is revised. The Safeguarding Policy and this annex will continue to be made available publicly.

This appendix has been compiled with reference to

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>