GODOLPHIN SALISBURY

GODOLPHIN SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY
COVID-19 ANNEX

Last reviewed: June 2020
Next review: As required
Reviewed by: Richard Dain

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Safeguarding during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Godolphin School will follow guidance laid down by the Department for Education and Public Health England. This guidance includes the following:

DfE guidance for schools and educational institutions published here
DfE safeguarding guidance, available here
DfE guidance on supporting vulnerable children and young people, available here
DfE and PHE guidance on Social Distancing, found here
DfE and PHE guidance on isolation for residential educational settings which can be found here

The children always come first
With regards to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first. It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. If anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act immediately and pass on the concerns as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)
There will always be a Designated Safeguarding Lead on call – all staff and volunteers have the contact details for the DSL and DDSLs. In addition, there is a trained deputy DSL on site should an urgent need arise on the campus, for example with children of key workers.
One DSL will be based in the Prep.

Vulnerable children
Vulnerable children (including those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with an EHC plan) who are unable to be cared for safely at home will have provision from the School. Godolphin currently has one student with an EHC plan but she can be cared for safely at home. Children deemed by the educational provider or local authorities who are assessed as vulnerable and could benefit from continued attendance at school may attend school regardless of their year group.
We regard one of the Prep girls as vulnerable.

Attendance
The Department for Education has introduced a daily online attendance form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school to be used from 23 March 2020.
Any pupils who are or become a Child in Need or a Child at Risk and who is expected to attend school must have any absences logged and followed up.

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Children moving schools
The School will continue to seek up-to-date pastoral, health and SEN documents and reports on any children joining the School to ensure that their care is continued. Similarly, any child leaving Godolphin will have our concerns and plans passed on to the DSL at their new school.

Mental health
Teachers should be aware that negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents, and should therefore take appropriate steps when setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.
We will continue to provide access to support within and to health professionals and organisations beyond the School.
Any telephone calls or 1-1 sessions must be logged by the member of staff and passed to their pastoral line manager, such as the Head of Prep or the Head of Year.

Remote Learning and online safety
School staff and pupils must adhere to the Internet Acceptable Use Policies which are applicable to them.
We will ensure that students who are being asked to work online have very clear reporting routes in place so they can raise any concerns. As well as reporting routes back to the school, we will also signpost children to age appropriate practical support from, for example:

- Childline - for support
- UK Safer Internet Centre - to report and remove harmful online content
- CEOP - for advice on making a report about online abuse

The UK Safer Internet Centre's professional online safety helpline also provides support for the children's workforce with any online safety issues they face. For example, recently published guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on safe remote learning and from the London Grid for Learning on the use of videos and livestreaming may be used to help plan online lessons and/or activities and plan them safely.

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Parents
Parents have been informed about the measures that the School is taking in order to get their help to implement them.

What parents can do:

- talk to their children about coronavirus (COVID-19), social distancing and handwashing
- follow guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection
- not gather at entrances or in playgrounds, and model social distancing so that their children learn good practice.

Parents have also been sent guidance on keeping their own children safe online and signposted to sites which can offer them support.

Recruitment and Induction of new staff and volunteers
It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. Safer recruitment processes as detailed in the School policy must be maintained and the subsequent induction processes followed, albeit sometimes via online training.
There is no expectation that a new DBS check should be obtained where that member of the workforce temporarily moves to another school or college to support the care of children.
The temporary guidance on DBS checks which came into force on 24 March 2020 was sent to the HR department.
The SCR must be kept up-to-date in the usual manner.
Referrals of staff misconduct and allegations against adults in School must be carried out in the usual manner as laid down by law and in the School's Safeguarding Policy.

The School site, including children still being educated on site
Children, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, are asked not to enter the education or childcare setting if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).
Minibus travel has been suspended to reduce the risk of infection.
Class sizes reflect the numbers of teaching staff available, are kept as small as possible, and small groups of children are kept together throughout the day wherever possible.

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This means, for example:

- sitting children at desks that are far apart
- ensuring everyone queues and eats further apart than normal
- Where necessary, lunch times, break times and the movement of pupils around the school are staggered to reduce large groups of children gathering
- keeping apart when in the playground or doing any physical exercise
- visiting the toilet one after the other or in small groups within their 'bubble'
- avoiding unnecessary staff gatherings

A full risk assessment is available for staff and parents.

Boarding is not currently being offered. Should this be necessary, for example for vulnerable children, boarders will be distanced where possible, and isolation rooms and toilet facilities established for those showing any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 until they can move back home or to alternative accommodation.

Cleaning, Hygiene and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
Cleaning and cleansing of key areas such as toilets, door handles, bannisters, light switches and shared keyboards has been augmented, with more anti-bacterial gel – we are using sprays and hand washing with Prep girls rather than gels - available for the community. Equipment, including toys and surfaces, will be cleaned and disinfected more regularly.
All soft toys have been removed and girls are not allowed to bring them to school.

All staff and children have been told and reminded through posters:

- to wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds frequently
- not to touch their faces where possible
- use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste

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We ask parents to ensure clothes are washed on a daily basis.

The Government Guidance states that “Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings... Face coverings (or any form of medical mask unless instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.”

The Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England has stated that personal protective equipment is not required for most staff, excluding health professionals, in a school setting:

Q: Do schools, colleges and childcare settings need personal protective equipment (PPE)?
The scientific advice indicates that educational staff do not require personal protective equipment. This is needed by medical and care professionals providing specific close contact care, or procedures that create airborne risk, such as suctioning and physiotherapy, for anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19), and is displaying symptoms.
*This is only required by medical and care professionals providing intimate care to people with coronavirus (COVID-19) (*see Q and A section in Source).