

COVID-19 Safeguarding update May 2020 (based on government update 20/05/20)

These considerations are to be at the forefront of actions as of May 2020, to support with schools wider re-opening, to phase in Y6, Y1, YR and YN at Bridge Schools Trust. They lie alongside the health and safety measures, checklists and risk assessments. This information was disseminated to all Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and Heads on 21/05/20 and all Trustees on 22/05/20.

Talking to children about death

Some young people are likely to have experienced bereavement during the lockdown. There is a useful page including a video on the [Child Bereavement UK site](#) with useful information on what to talk about, resources for children and the importance of a balanced approach. All heads are to follow the trust bereavement policy for guidance and resources, distributed 21/05/20.

Managing challenging behaviour

Students may communicate difficulties & distress in non-conforming ways. Staff should show extra care and recognise this as communication, responding accordingly. Staff are to consider revising the behaviour policy during this period. Change, excitement and stress are likely to lead to increased incidents and the school will want to respond sensitively and safely, taking the current situation into account. They will need to communicate changes to staff, students and parents.

Domestic abuse

[Refuge reported a 25% increase](#) in domestic abuse calls since lockdown. All staff have accessed domestic abuse training during May to support with this.

Children's mental health

It has been a strange time and for many children and young people the stresses will have been high. Many staff are highly skilled and equipped to support children. All staff accessed mental health training during May 20. Training such as TIS will be used. In some cases, contact with other professional organisations may be appropriate. Staff will use these skills to identify and support children as they return.

Planning with parents & carers

Communication is key to a safe transition.

Attendance processes

There are robust arrangements for tracking where children are expected to be. These systems will respond promptly if a child is not present at school when expected, or contact cannot be established with a family, following the trust flowchart.

Transition

Due care needs to be paid to **all** year groups for transition, planning for Summer 2 and also Autumn 2020.

Online Safety

Our schools will do all they can to 'reasonably' ensure children at home are safe online, by updating web-link pages for parents/carers to raise awareness and also act as appropriate on contextualised safeguarding concerns raised whilst children are at home, providing support and raising concerns in line with standard practice. Schools have noted the guidance from swgfl:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/online-safety-considerations-for-reopening-of-schools.pdf>

