



# **Child Protection Policy (COVID-19 Annex)**

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**POLICY NUMBER**  
SILVP0001A200403

**POLICY TYPE**  
SCHOOL

# Child Protection Policy (COVID-19 Annex)

This Policy Annex has been created to compliment the Silverdale School & ARP's Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy in light of the national Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis. It has been created in accordance with the latest published Government advice.

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the Government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear: if children can stay safely at home, they must do so, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

The Government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. Following guidance from North Tyneside Council, Silverdale School & ARP will be open during the COVID-19 Crisis to:

- students who would be at significant risk if their education, health and care provision and placement did not continue, namely those who could not safely be supported at home.
- students whose carers/parents are designated Key Workers and are in need of childcare to allow them to contribute towards the national effort against the COVID-19 virus (as per the Local Authority's priority list).

## 1. SAFEGUARDING LEADS

The school's established and named Safeguarding Lead and four Deputies remain in place. Any changes to this stemming from illness or absence will be shared with staff on a daily basis. The established reporting procedure for safeguarding concerns, as outlined in the Safeguarding Policy, remains in place (all contact details can be found in Reference Document A of the Safeguarding Policy).

## 2. IN SCHOOL

### 2.1 - DAILY REGISTER

A daily register of attendance will be taken as normal. The register is closed at 10:00 a.m. and attendance data is reported swiftly to the Local Authority. The school's established absence reporting procedure is to be followed, as is the established procedure for investigating unexpected absence.

## **2.2 - KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE FROM COVID-19 IN SCHOOL**

The following procedures will be used to minimise the spread of COVID-19 in the school:

- a) Students and staff will be reminded to wash their hands more frequently than normal throughout the school day. Stocks of soap will be checked, and replenished, before the start of every day. Children will be told not to touch their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands and will be reminded to cover their mouth and nose with a bent elbow, or tissue, when coughing or sneezing. Used tissues will be disposed of immediately and the bin will be emptied during the day. Hands will be washed after coughing or sneezing, with soap and warm water.
- b) Windows will be kept open for ventilation.
- c) Other students will not be allowed on site.
- d) Visitors, contractors or staff not on the daily rota will not be allowed on site, unless absolutely necessary or in emergencies.
- e) Physical contact between children and staff will be avoided, so far as is possible. Alternative means to comfort children who may be distressed will be used.
- f) As far as possible, games and activities which lead to physical contact between people will be avoided.
- g) Where children complete work, it will not be collected in at the end of the day. They will be asked to take it home instead.
- h) Children will be spread out as far as possible when in the classroom and when eating – ideally 2 metres apart. Children will walk single file when moving about the building and will not have physical contact with other students or staff.
- i) Break and lunch times will be staggered where possible so that the playground and dining area doesn't become crowded at any time. Children will be kept 2 metres apart.
- j) Staff will practice social distancing wherever they are in the school.

### **2.3 - GUIDANCE FOR EDUCATION SETTINGS**

The following is the latest Government guidance from '*COVID-19: guidance for education settings*', updated 26 March 2020:

- a) Students should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal.
- b) If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in school they will be sent home and advised to follow the Government's staying at home guidance.
- c) If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible and if appropriate, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door. Settings should be mindful of individual children's needs – for example it would not be appropriate for younger children to be alone without adult supervision. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.
- d) If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.
- e) If they need clinical advice, they (or their teacher, parent or guardian) should go online to NHS 111 (or call 111 if they don't have internet access). In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.
- f) If a member of staff has helped someone who was taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.

The full Government guidance and any updates can be seen online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

## **2.4 - CLEANING ARRANGEMENTS**

More thorough cleaning arrangements will be introduced. Toilets and wash areas will be cleaned by cleaning staff, as regularly as is necessary to maintain high standards of cleanliness with cleaning products. All other areas to be cleaned by cleaning staff with cleaning products before the start of every day, paying special attention to door handles, table/counter tops, computers including mouse and keyboard, light switches telephones, chairs, toys and other areas touched regularly by staff and children.

Where there has been a COVID-19 case, the cleaning regime should be in accordance with strict rules outlined in the Government guidance '*COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings*' which can be seen online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

## **2.5 - RISK ASSESSMENTS**

The School has well established procedures for student risk assessments and these will be followed as normal. Additionally, students with the highest safeguarding risk will be supported on a 1:1 basis when in school.

# **3. AT HOME**

## **3.1 - WELFARE CHECKS**

Link Workers (and/or staff who are known to the children) will carry out weekly welfare checks by telephone. Carers/parents and students will be spoken to. Contact will be recorded using the school's established procedure. This information will be shared with the Local Authority when required.

## **3.2 - FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

Under normal circumstances, schools are not expected to provide free school meals to disadvantaged children who are not attending due to illness or if the school is closed. However, following Government guidance, Silverdale School will continue to provide support to these students. The steps taken by Silverdale School to support students affected by COVID-19 might change depending on the evolving circumstances of the school.

The full Government guidance and any updates for Free School Meals can be seen online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>