Covid-19

Safeguarding Addendum for Wirral Schools' Safeguarding Policies

Introduction

As our school is remaining open for vulnerable children and children of keyworkers during the current Covid-19 crisis, we are taking additional steps to safeguard our pupils, staff and parents. To do this we are acting in accordance with all NHS and Public Health England advice, as well as Department for Education guidance for schools.

Staff, young people and children **must** stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others.

Reporting of Safeguarding Concerns

All safeguarding concerns will continue to be reported in the usual way as set out in our Safeguarding Policy. All concerns are reported into the Integrated Front door which is operating as usual.

Action to be taken if someone develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) on the school site

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education setting they should be sent home and advised to follow the staying at home guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

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.

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.

If they need clinical advice, they (or their teacher, parent or guardian) should go online to NHS 111 - https://111.nhs.uk/ (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.

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.

In most cases, closure of the educational setting will not be needed but this will be a local decision based on various factors such as establishment size and risk of further spread. Advice will be sought from the Local Authority and Public Health England before any decision to close is taken.

If there is an urgent public health action to take, the educational setting will be contacted by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team who will undertake a risk assessment and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken. PHE will rarely advise a school to close but this may be necessary if there are so many staff being isolated that the school has operational issues. Your local authority will support you to make this assessment. PHE will work with the headteacher, principal or management team, and the Local Authority Public Health team, to advise on the management of children, pupils, students or staff.

Limiting spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school

The school is actively promoting the NHS and Public Health England advice to limit the spread of Covid-19 in the school. Action taken includes:

- reminding everyone on the school site of the public health advice.
- reminding staff and families to wash their hands for 20 seconds more frequently than normal – these messages are promoted in all sessions/lessons
- promoting social distancing advice
- having a cycle of regular cleaning in the school

Monitoring Attendance

Attendance of pupils will continue to be monitored, this is particularly important in respect of vulnerable children. The usual class register system will not be in use to support social distancing measures and other ways of recording attendance will be used. Attendance will be reported to the Department for Education every day in line with central government advice:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings

Advice for attending safeguarding meetings and local working arrangements

The school is following the advice published by the Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) covering attendance at statutory meetings and visits to children's homes. Where possible audio/video conferencing is used instead of face to face attendance at meetings and visits to pupil's homes are actively discouraged. Where safeguarding concerns exist for new or existing cases these will be discussed with the Local Authority.

The school will be acting in accordance with local working arrangements advice published here:

https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/working-arrangements-during-covid-19/