



Addendum 1 to Safeguarding Policy

**COVID-19 school closure arrangements for
Safeguarding and Child Protection at
Aspire Schools Federation
(comprising Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools)**

School Name: Aspire Schools Federation

Date: 01.04.20

Date shared with staff: April 2020

1. Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This addendum to the Aspire Schools Federation Safeguarding policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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2. Key Contacts

Role:	Name/ Details:	Contact:
Gilbrook Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs K Brown	0151 522 3900
Gilbrook Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Ms S Long	0151 522 3900
Kilgarth Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr M Simpson	0151 652 8071
Kilgarth Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Ms J Westlake	0151 625 8071
Nominated Safeguarding governor for The Aspire Schools (Gilbrook and Kilgarth)	Reverend C Natton	0151 652 8071
Chair of Governors for The Aspire Schools (Gilbrook and Kilgarth)	Mrs S Simmons MBE	0151 652 8071
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Anne King	0151 666 4442
Head of Safeguarding Children	Joe Banham	0151 666 4371
Prevent Co-ordinator	Alison Burnett	Alison.Burnett@Liverpool.gov.uk 07394559106 Alison.Burnett@liverpool.gov.u
Prevent Team Merseyside Police	Prevent Team	0151 777 8560
Director of Children's Services	Paul Boyce	0151 606 2000
Integrated Front Door	Mon-Fri, 9:00am – 5.00pm Outside of these hours	Tel: 0151 606 2008 ifd@wirral.gov.uk Tel: 0151 677 6557
Police	In an emergency For non-emergency but possible crime	999 101

3. Vulnerable Children

Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be: Kirsten Brown at Gilbrook, Jane Westlake at Kilgarth

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and the schools will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, the schools or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

4. Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools, and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school and the schools will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. The schools will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

To support the above, Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, the schools will notify their social worker.

5. Designated Safeguarding Lead

Gilbrook school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Mrs K Brown**

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Ms S Long**

Kilgarth school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Mr M Simpson**

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Ms J Westlake**

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, CPOMS and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

It is important that all staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to speak to them.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

6. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via CPOMS, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead at their school. This will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead in private to report the concern. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Designated Safeguarding Lead whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the [Chair of Governors:](#)

[Mrs S Simmons](#)

7. Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter either school, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's Safeguarding policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

8. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

Where Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Both schools will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools will each continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

9. Online safety in schools and colleges

Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

10. Children and online safety away from school and college

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Safeguarding Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s; groups only
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and the background should be blurred.
- The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms provided by Stowe Valley MAT to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

11. Supporting children not in school

The Aspire Schools Federation is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded on CPOMS, as should a record of contact have made.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools and their DSLs will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools recognise that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

12. Supporting children in school

The Aspire Schools Federation is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteachers will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

The schools will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

The schools will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

Where Gilbrook or Kilgarth schools have concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – this will be discussed immediately

13. Peer on Peer Abuse

Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools recognise that during the closure, a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The schools will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required, to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.