



YAVNEH COLLEGE ACADEMY TRUST

COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

1 APRIL 2020

1. Context

From 20 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 of the Yavneh College Academy Trust (YCAT) Safeguarding and Child Protection policies contain details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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- 3. Vulnerable children**
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- 13. Peer on Peer Abuse**

Key contacts

| Role | Name | Email |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Designated Safeguarding Lead | Rabbi A Davis | adavis@yavnehcollege.org |
| Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead | Mrs C Field (YPS) Mr M Kendler Mrs C Spelman Mrs H Chweidan Mrs L Tredler Mr J Cordara | cfield@yavnehprimary.org mkendler@yavnehcollege.org cspelman@yavnehcollege.org hchweidan@yavnehcollege.org ltredler@yavnehcollege.org jcordara@yavnehcollege.org |
| Executive Headteacher | Mr S Lewis | pa@yavnehcollege.org |
| Chair of MAT | Mrs S Nyman | |
| Safeguarding Governor | Mrs J Rudolf (YC) Mrs R Hyams (YPS) | |

Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in Section 17 of the Children's Act 1989 (Child in Need).

Those with an EHCP will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with an EHCP can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on

the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Yavneh 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' Headteacher (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be: Rabbi Andrew Davis

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 Yavneh Schools will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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

Yavneh Schools will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

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.

Yavneh Schools and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school and will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who do not. Yavneh 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.

HOW WILL THIS LOOK IN OUR SCHOOLS?

To support the above, Yavneh Schools will, when communicating with parents/carers about school attendance, 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, Yavneh Schools will notify their social worker.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Yavneh Schools have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSLs.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Rabbi Andrew Davis

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs Caroline Field (YPS)
Mr Matthew Kendler (YC)
Mrs Cheryl Spelman (YC)
Mrs Helen Chweidan (YC)
Mrs Lisa Tredler (YC)
Mr John Cordara (YC)

A trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone, email or online video - when working from home. The DSL can be contacted via his school office extension number, which will divert if not on site.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a member of staff will be designated to assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site and contacting the DSL/DDSL if required. The Business Manager will inform staff who are on the supervision rota for each day who the senior member of staff is and ensure they have all contact details for the DSL and Business Manager.

The DSL and DDSL team will continue to have responsibility for 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.

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

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 (YC) or the Pupil Concern Form (YPS), 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 and the Executive Headteacher. 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 our schools, they should email the concern to the Executive Headteacher.

Concerns around the Executive Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of the YCAT: Mrs S Nyman.

YCAT will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

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 our schools, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. This induction may be carried out using video technology.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our campus, 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 child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

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, Yavneh Schools will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, 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 Yavneh 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.

Yavneh 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.

Yavneh 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, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Yavneh Schools will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Online safety in school

Yavneh Schools will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

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

Children and online safety away from school

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 Child Protection Policy and where appropriate, referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the YCAT Code of Conduct.

Yavneh 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, unless authorized by a member of the SLT and the 'meeting' is recorded.
- 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 where possible.
- 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 maximum of 55 minutes, in line with the school timetable.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms provided by Yavneh Schools to communicate with pupils. All online lessons should take place using Microsoft Teams.

Supporting children not in school

Yavneh Schools 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 (or the YPS CP file), as should a record of any contacts made.

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

Yavneh Schools and its DSL 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.

Yavneh 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 Yavneh Schools need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Supporting children in school

Yavneh Schools are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils.

Yavneh Schools will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Executive Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Yavneh 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.

Yavneh 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 if of a safeguarding nature, recorded on CPOMS.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Yavneh 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 of the Child Protection Policy.

The school 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 or the YPS Record of Concern Forms and appropriate referrals made.