

COVID-19 full opening of schools:

Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Saltersgate Infant School

Addendum to the School's current Safeguarding and Child Protection policy to reflect full requirements for implementation from 8th March 2021

From 8th March 2021, schools will fully re-open to all pupils.

Our school's Safeguarding and Child Protection policies will be relevant and fully implemented once again to keep all of our school community safe.

To ensure we can do this in the most effective way, we have

- Provided staff with the most recent Safeguarding updates
- Shared our statutory responsibility to keep our children safe and the appropriate channels to do this in school
- Ensured our DSL and Deputy DSLs have been given additional time in the first instance to support staff, parents and children with any new safeguarding and/or welfare concerns
- Revisited systems to ensure referrals to social care and other agencies are handled swiftly
- Strengthened our ability to utilise a co-ordinated approach with outside agencies, social care and our three local safeguarding partners to identify harm and support children effectively

Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March and we will continue to encourage regular school attendance. Our usual rules on school attendance will thus apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

As usual, we will follow up absence in accordance with our Attendance Policy. We will continue to call parents of children who are not in school and whose absence has not been reported, and report children missing education to the local authority.

Where pupils are not able to attend school, as they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19), the absence will not be penalised.

Where pupils and families are anxious about attending school, we will discuss any concerns with parents, and provide reassurance on the measures we have in place to reduce any risks. We will also remind parents that pupils of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies.

Remote Education

We will continue to provide remote education to pupils who are unable to attend school because they are complying with government guidance or legislation around coronavirus (COVID-19). We will also offer pastoral support to pupils as necessary.

Elective Home Education (EHE)

We will encourage parents to send their children to school, particularly those who are vulnerable. We will consider whether a parent's decision to educate at home gives greater cause for concern compared to remaining in school. If we feel there is additional cause for concern, we will follow our safeguarding policy and refer this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will then consider making a referral to the local authority in line with existing procedures. This will happen as soon as we become aware of a parent's intention, or decision, to home educate.