



COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

INTERIM Updated January 2021

DRAFT

Member Academies:

Beamont Collegiate Academy
 Bridgewater High School
 Broomfields Junior School
 Great Sankey Primary School
 Meadowside Community Primary and Nursery
 School
 Padgate Academy
 Penketh High School
 Penketh South Primary School
 Priestley College
 Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School

Version	Date	Action
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From the 5th January 2021 schools in England were closed again as a precautionary measure to help to curb the spread of coronavirus. This guidance should be read in conjunction with the TCAT Safeguarding Statement- the principles of which still apply and the academies own Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

TCAT academies will also continue to offer a place in school for children who are vulnerable and those who are the children of Key Workers regardless of Year group.

This addendum of TCAT academies Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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Key contacts

School	DSL	Phone	Email
Beamont Collegiate Academy	Matthew Reynolds	07714768354	reynoldsm@bca.warrington.ac.uk
Bridgewater High School - Upper	Mark Malam	07917607558	m.malam@bridgewaterhigh.com
Bridgewater High School - Lower	Duncan Morrison	07951777346	d.morrison@bridgewaterhigh.com
Broomfields Junior School	Rachel Morris Brown	07525722782	head@broomfieldsjunior.co.uk
Great Sankey Primary School	Vicky Briggs	07854650574	head@greatsankeyprimary.warrington.sch.uk
Meadowside Primary School	Stuart Wright	07824340460	head@meadowside.warrington.sch.uk
Padgate Academy	Dave Vickery	07793841543	dvickery@padgateacademy.co.uk
Penketh South Primary School	Angela Grace	07976837812	head@penkethsouth.warrington.sch.uk
Penketh High School	Claire Lomax	07923215898	clomax@penkethhigh.org
Sir Thomas Boteler CofE High School	John Leonard	07508052507	jleonard@boteler.org.uk
Priestley College	Mark Eccleston	Mob: 07508608937 Work: 01925633591	m.eccleston@priestley.ac.uk



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 (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan, some children identified as Child in Need and those who are looked after by the Local Authority.

Individual schools will also identify the pupils that they deem to be vulnerable, including those with mental health challenges and look to support them in the best way that they can. This may include access to provision in school.

Those with an EHC plan will have their risk-assessment reviewed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they can attend school or college safely. This could be in a phased or part time basis as long as the guidelines for pupil numbers and Social Bubbles can be maintained.

For children who are identified as vulnerable Designated Safeguarding Leads in consultation with Social Workers will encourage the children to return to school if it is safe to do so and they are not self-isolating or clinically vulnerable. Where Parents/Carers agree that their child returns to school they will be expected to attend. When they are not in school the DSL will be notified and the parent/carer and Social Worker informed.

Where Parents/Carers do not agree that the child can return to school then support will continue from the school to ensure that the child is safe and engaging in school work at home. This will be done through regular contact either by phone or a virtual interactive platform. The school will remain in close contact with Social Care as appropriate.

Designated Safeguarding Leads in all TCAT academies will continue to support the work of Social Workers and the Virtual School. Through regular contact and timely sharing of information.

Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings will complete their SIMS register from ***the 5th January*** in line with updated government guidance. **(See TCAT Interim Attendance Policy)**

Each TCAT academy will maintain their own daily register using SIMS and will report this directly to the DFE. Where pupils have been **expected** to attend but have failed to then phone calls will be made to the home to establish if the child is safe. If this is a vulnerable child who has a Social Worker then they will also be contacted. If no contact can be made and where deemed appropriate the school will undertake home visits.

Each TCAT academy will also complete the weekly attendance monitoring of vulnerable pupils for the Local Authority.

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



Safeguarding Responsibility on School Site School Closure

A Designated Safeguarding Lead or a Deputy will be on site or will be available by phone. All Safeguarding concerns will be referred through to the DSL using normal systems of reporting.

Teachers supporting on line learning will remain vigilant about the nature and volume of work being completed by pupils. Where they have Safeguarding concerns, they must contact a DSL by phone or email.

Members of staff supporting welfare contact will remain vigilant about the family's circumstances and should they have Safeguarding or child protection concerns they must inform the DSL by phone or email

Reporting a concern about staff in academy setting

Any concerns should be raised with the DSL or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. **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 notify the senior leader on site. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Trustees Mr Howard Platt. TCAT HR support will continue to offer support in any allegations.

Reporting a concern away from the academy setting

All staff who through their interaction with pupils who have concerns about their wellbeing or safety of a pupil should follow the academies normal Safeguarding and Child Protection protocols and contact the DSL. The contact details of the DSL's are at the front of this document.

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL **live** training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus. **However, access to virtual training will be encouraged.**

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 TCAT staff have had Hays on line safeguarding training, in school Safeguarding Briefings and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020)

Safer Recruitment/volunteer and movement of staff

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter TCAT academies they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. This will be delivered by the Headteacher or the DSL

Any staff **new to the school** entering school on any day will be issued with Key Safeguarding Advice and the routes for referral on that day.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our academies, we will take into account the DfE original 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
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For movement within the Trust, academies should seek assurance from the Multi- Academy Trust (MAT) HR Manager that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training.

For movement across schools with Warrington then assurance of the member of staff's suitability to work with children will be sought from Warrington Borough Council HR department.

Prior to taking up employment the member of staff will receive electronically the TCAT's Safeguarding Statement and school's Child Protection Policy including this addendum and Chapter 1 of KPSIE and the advice on how to deal with Safeguarding issues in the school setting.

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, TCAT academies 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 2020.

Where TCAT academies are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 183 to 188 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

We 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 as laid down in section 4 Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020

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, each TCAT academy will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 164 to 171 in KCSIE.

Online safety in Academy

TCAT academies 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. Each Academy's Online Safety Policy will remain in place during school closure.

Children and online safety away from Academy

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

When TCAT academies moves to online teaching due diligence will be shown in ensuring that this is a safe and secure platform for both staff and pupils. **Please refer to TCAT Staff Working from Home IT**

Security Guidance notes.

Each academy will issue protocols for its pupils accessing their remote learning to ensure that they and others are safe.

Supporting children not in an Academy

TCAT academies prioritise pupil wellbeing and the need to support all of its pupils. During the school closure lessons will be set on line and routine contact with key staff will be put in place along with advice and guidance for all pupils and families as to where they can find support both in school, on line and in the local area.

TCAT academies also recognise the need to support pupils whom they believe to be living in vulnerable circumstances and will continue to offer support to keep them safe.

Each TCAT academy has mechanisms in place for contacting pupils who fall into this category.

Supporting parents with online safety

There is a lot of support available to keep pupils safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers and these should be shared with parents and available on school information websites:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)
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Peer on Peer Abuse

TCAT academies recognise that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where an academy 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 their Child Protection Policy.

The academy 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.

Support from the Multi-Academy Trust

TCAT Central Executive Team and Tracey Hatton will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively.