**Annex – Covid-19 Safeguarding & Child Protection – Christchurch Infant School**

This annex does not replace the school’s existing child protection policy and should be used in conjunction with its existing safeguarding policies. The way Christchurch Infant School is currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

• The best interests of children must always continue to come first.

• If anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately. This can be done by contacting any of the following: Mr Baxter, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Darch or Mrs Chapman on 01202 485851 or through office@christchurchinf.dorset.sch.uk

• If you are unable to get hold of any of these staff members, you must ring the MASH team on 01202 735046 MASH@bcpcouncil.gov.uk or if you feel the child is at risk of immediate harm 999. The safeguarding team will continue to converse weekly where any concerns or communications will be fed in, discussed and actioned.

**1. Child Protection**

Relevant staff have a copy of the schools ‘key safeguarding’ document which highlights all pupils who are CP, CIN, LAC or at risk in relation to specific safeguarding concerns. This document is updated weekly ensuring relevant staff have a clear idea of which children are at risk or vulnerable to significant harm. All staff have access to My Concern in order to record concerns, actions and updates for any children. All relevant (safeguarding related) communication with the parent/s/carers will be logged on My Concern and an email sent to all DSLs. This information, where relevant will be shared within a multi-disciplinary and social care framework. This protocol follows the national safeguarding guidance.

1. **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

The optimal scenario for any school or college providing care for children is to have a trained DSL or deputy available on site. There will always be a member of staff who is advanced (Level 3) trained on site. The following staff should be consulted (when they are leading on site) if a concern arises whilst a pupil is accessing school based provision or access is needed to the school’s child protection files:

Mr Baxter, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Darch or Mrs Chapman

1. **Staff training and induction**

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter the school or college, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction, delivered by Duncan Baxter. The school’s child protection policy and part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) will support this process.

1. **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. If the school is recruiting new staff, we will continue to follow our relevant safer recruitment processes which includes reference to the relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). A vital aspect of this recruitment is DBS checks. Currently the DBS ID checking guidance has changed for a temporary period. This change has enabled the school to check ID documents over video link and scanned images to be used in advance of the DBS check being submitted.

1. **Mental Health**

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Staff are aware that children, parents/carers and families may find the current circumstances challenging and need access and signposting to specific support. Apps and on-line sites for Mental Health wellbeing and support.

Anxiety UK – 08444775774

Bipolar UK – [www.bipolaruk.org](http://www.bipolaruk.org).

CALM - https://www.thecalmzone.net/help/get-help/ - for men

Child line – 08001111 Community mental health service (CAMHS) – 01202 646300

Depression – www.depressionalliance.org Domestic violence helpline – 08082000247

Eating disorders (Adults) – 08456341414

Eating disorders (Children) – 03456347650

Family lives (Deal all aspects of parenting Inc. bullying) – 08088002222

FRANK (Confidential drugs advice service) – 03001236600 https://www.giveusashout.org/ - text helpline for anxiety

MIND (Mental health problems helpline) 03001233393 - https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines/ NSPCC – 08088005000 OCD UK – 08451203778

PAPYRUS (Young suicide prevention society) – 08000684141

Relate (relationship advice) – 03001001234

Rethink mental illness – 03005000927

Samaritans – 116123 https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/contact UK Drugs helpline – 08000241477

**6. Children and online safety away from school**

The DFE have stated that ‘all schools should be doing what they reasonably can to keep all of their children safe. In most cases, the majority of children will not be physically attending the school or 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 child protection policy and the designated safeguarding lead Duncan Baxter, or the deputy designated safeguarding leads Mrs Simpson, Mrs Darch or Mrs Chapman contacted immediately. All schools should consider the safety of their children when they are asked to work online. The starting point for online teaching should be that the same principles as set out in Christchurch Infant School’s code of conduct for safer working practice, acceptable use of technologies and social networking policy. Christchurch Infant School’s online learning tools and systems are used in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. Pupils who are being asked to work online can raise any concerns whilst online. As well as reporting concerns to the school pupils can access:

Childline - for support UK Safer Internet Centre - to report and remove harmful online content

CEOP - for advice on making a report about online abuse Staff at Christchurch Infant School are in regular contact with parents and carers. These communications should be used to reinforce the importance of children being safe online. It will be especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will asked to access and be clear who from the school their child is going to be interacting with online.

Staff will actively signpost resources to ensure parent/carers can keep their children safe online. These resources include:

• Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

• London Grid for Learning- for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

• Net-aware - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC

• Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

• Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online

• UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers

**7. Peer on Peer abuse**

Peer on peer abuse is defined as ‘children can abuse other children’ and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexting and initiating/hazing type violence and rituals. During this period, where families are spending more time than usual together it is important that staff are attuned to this risk and following child protection procedures if they have concern. This can be done by contacting Mr Baxter, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Darch or Mrs Chapman.