



## Ashmole Trust Safeguarding Policy Amendments in Response to COVID-19

Ashmole Academy Trust continues to follow DFE Keeping Children Safe in Education as statutory guidance in regards to safeguarding.

The way schools are 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. These include:

- Ashmole Academy and Ashmole Primary remain open for those students whose parents are key workers, vulnerable students and those with an EHCP. In response to this, a Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy will be present on site each day, as well as some staff.
- All staff therefore continue to have a safeguarding duty to report any issues while the school is closed, so that these can be dealt with quickly and in the usual way.
- If staff have a safeguarding concern for any student, they should report this immediately via telephone to the main school office on 020 8361 2703 (Academy) or 020 8361 1881 (Primary) and ask to speak to the DSL or deputy. The DSL will discuss the concern with the staff member and ask them to write this down electronically using the yellow safeguarding form.
- Where a parent/carer needs to report a safeguarding concern for a child, they can either contact the school via the main telephone number and ask to speak to the DSL or deputy, or contact the local MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) team on the following numbers:
  - **Barnet 020 8359 4066**
  - **Enfield 0208 379 5555** Emergency Duty Team - **020 8359 2000**
  - Consultation line: **020 8359 4336** between 11-12noon
  - **Haringey** Monday to Thursday 8.45am to 5pm; Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm **020 8489 4470**

**If a child is at significant risk, you must call the police on 999 immediately**

### Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies (DSLs)

A trained DSL or deputy will be available each day in school or, where this is not possible, via telephone call.

### Vulnerable Children

The government has identified vulnerable children as those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with EHC plans.

Ashmole Academy Trust will continue to work in partnership with local authorities and the virtual schools to support students through this difficult time.

Senior leaders, DSLs and deputies know who their most vulnerable children are and have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

## Attendance

In guidance with the DFE, Ashmole Academy Trust will not complete their usual day – to –day attendance processes, however will follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their children and the student subsequently does not attend.

## Mental Health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of students and their parents or carers. Ashmole Academy Trust will continue to support students and parents/carers by continuing provision for those that are in school or providing information and activities to support mental health through Firefly (Academy) or email (Primary).

Barnet have provided the following websites to support parents, carers and students:

- [Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families](#)
- [Big White Wall](#)
- [The Children's Society/The Resource Vault](#) offers advice on a range of mental health issues for children and young people
- [Child Bereavement UK](#)
- [Epic Friends](#)
- [Healthwatch Essex](#)
- [Kooth](#) is a free, confidential, safe and anonymous way for young people aged 11-25 to ask for help from a team of highly qualified and experienced counsellors and support workers.
- [Mentally Healthy Schools](#)
- [MindEd](#)
- [MyMind](#)
- [Papyrus](#)
- [Samaritans](#)
- [Time to Change](#)
- [Young Minds/Crisis Messenger](#)

## Supporting Students Who Are Not In School

All support of families during this time will be recorded using the established school recording system.

- No personal details or contact numbers of students will be taken off premises (paper copies).
- DSLs to be available for safeguarding escalation.
- Email communications to be used by parents/carers.

## Monitoring of Vulnerable Pupils Who Are Not Attending School

Ashmole Academy Trust will be keeping in regular contact with students, this will be weekly for the most vulnerable. Contact during the holiday period may be limited with priority given to the most vulnerable students.

A log will be kept of all communication and feedback given to the DSL or deputy.

## Online Safety/Safe Remote Learning

Ashmole Academy will be using Firefly, the online platform, to assist students in their learning during the period of closure. This will be an integral part of closure arrangements and it is essential it is undertaken in a safe way, supported by appropriate risk assessments. Students will continue to be at risk of criminal exploitation, including county lines. Harm behind closed doors is likely to increase. It is essential therefore, that parents and carers are aware of the content their children have access to during the day.

Ashmole Primary will be providing work through email to parents and carers on a weekly basis.

Parents and carers should ensure that their children keep themselves safe online. An essential part of the online planning process will be ensuring children who are being asked to work online, have very clear reporting routes in place so they can raise any concerns whilst online. As well as reporting routes back to the school, parents, carers and students can also gain further advice or report any abuse on the following sites:

- [Childline](#) - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse

Parents and carers must ensure the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children. Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- [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

## Communication and Telephone Contact

During the school closure, Ashmole Academy Trust may need to contact you. The majority of this communication will occur on the school site using the school's equipment when staff are present. Where this is not possible and unavoidable, permission will be given from the DSL or Leadership team member in charge using the following guidelines:

- Withhold their numbers
- Make calls using their landlines
- Delete student numbers once used
- Record all direct contact; purpose, and duration

## Electronic Contact with Parents

- Video recordings for teaching are permitted providing the content has been agreed with the head of department and then shared with the leadership team member. This then needs to be approved by the senior leadership team before being used.

- Audio recordings are permitted for teaching, however should be sent to the head of department/head of year. Final approval will be given by the leadership team member responsible before being used.
- Staff will never talk or communicate with parents or students via social media
- If a parent needs to speak to a staff member, they should use the school's email address marked for the attention of the staff member.

Ashmole Academy: [staff@ashmoleacademy.org](mailto:staff@ashmoleacademy.org)

Ashmole Primary: [office@ashmoleprimary.org](mailto:office@ashmoleprimary.org)