**Annex to BMet Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy June 2020 (revised January 2021)**

**Updates Jan 2021**

* Addition of section identifying the categories of vulnerable young people (Jan 2021 update).
* Addition of section referencing onsite attendance for vulnerable learners.
* Addition and removal of external links for staff, students, parents & carers.
* Addition of date references where links/guidance have been updated.
* Addition of Quality and delivery of remote education section inc reference of identified senior leader with overarching responsibility for the quality and delivery of remote education.

**Continued response to COVID-19**

There have been significant changes within our setting and within the UK in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

This annex sets out some of the adjustments BMet has made in line with the changed arrangements in the college and following continued advice from government and local agencies.

Despite the changes, the College’s Safeguarding Policy is fundamentally the same: the welfare of children and young people always comes first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and referrals should continue to be made in line with our established safeguarding procedure.

The pressures on children, young people and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures for a variety of reasons including through having to stay within the household, through financial hardship or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in terms of setting any work for students to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning and ability to access on line resources). Staff may be aware of the mental health of both students and their parents or carers, and should refer to safeguarding about any emerging concerns.

# Vulnerable Young People

Vulnerable Young People include those who:

* are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child;
* have an education, health and care (EHC) plan;
* have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), this might include:
  + young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services or in the process of being referred to children’s services
  + adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
  + those at risk of becoming NEET (‘not in employment, education or training’)
  + those living in temporary accommodation
  + those who are young carers
  + those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  + care leavers
  + others at the provider and local authority’s discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

We have undertaken a scoping exercise to identify the most vulnerable students and individual arrangements have been made with students who have an attached social worker and those with an EHCP.

**For students subject to a Child Protection Plan and Child In Need Plan, and who have an allocated social worker**: contact will be made by the safeguarding weekly with these students in agreement with the family and social worker.

**For students who are Looked after Children and recent Care Leavers**: contact will be made by the safeguarding team weekly as agreed with the student, carer and social worker.

**For students with an EHCP**: Support Workers and Learning Support Advisors will maintain regular contact as agreed with student and parents / carers. Support can be delivered through individual arrangements based on curriculum activity.

**For students on the edge of social care involvement or pending allocation of a social worker or identified as high risk**: contact will be made by the safeguarding team once per week for a welfare check.

Contact will be made remotely through telephone calls/Microsoft Teams or other appropriate methods.

**Supporting onsite attendance at College (pre-booked appointment only)**

The college will support limited onsite attendance for vulnerable learners where this will benefit their continued learning and wellbeing. Appointments will be made on an individual basis in agreement with learners, parents/guardians, carers and social workers.

**Reporting arrangements:**

The college arrangements continue in line with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. Designated Personnel with responsibility for Child Protection are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Designated Safeguarding Lead BMet**  Kay Burton-Williams 07779 328630 | | | |
| **College** | **Role** | **Staff Member** | **Contact no** |
| James Watt | Deputy DSL | Claire Harvey | 07545 100107 |
| James Watt | Deputy DSL | Katie Dyer | 07764 322398 |
| Matthew Boulton | Deputy DSL | Ianthe Wassell | 07967 679626 |
| Matthew Boulton | Deputy DSL | Lisa Underwood | 07712 407466 |
| Sutton Coldfield | Deputy DSL | Sonia Crook-Lake | 07967 999125 |

For safeguarding issues outside of college hours including weekends you should report any safeguarding concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult to CASS (the Children's Advice and Support Service) on **0121 303 1888.** Outside of office hours ring **0121 675 4806.** If you believe a crime has been committed contact the police on **101.** If you believe that someone else is at immediate risk of harm dial **999**

Arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged.

Staff will continue to follow the safeguarding procedures and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any child, whether in college or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

All safeguarding concerns must be raised via [My Concern](https://www.myconcern.education/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f) in the normal way and a member of the safeguarding team will review actions required. If you are concerned that a child/vulnerable adult is at immediate risk of harm please call the DSL/Deputy and if needed the police.

Normal safeguarding procedures apply for referrals to children’s services. This contact will go through a member of the safeguarding team (listed above) who will follow appropriate measures in seeking the appropriate and necessary support.

Should a child or young person be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond, the college will immediately follow the safeguarding children partnership referral route for urgent cases.

**Allegations or concerns about staff**

With such different arrangements in place, young people could be at greater risk of on line abuse. We remind all staff to maintain the view that ‘it could happen here’ and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to the safeguarding team.

Any agency staff or volunteers working with students during college closure will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of the risks and know how to take action if they are concerned.

**New staff or volunteers**

All new starters must have an on line induction. They must read the college Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Policy. The DSL or deputies will ensure new recruits know who to contact if worried about a child or young person and ensure the new starters are familiar with the child protection procedure.

All new starters or volunteers need to confirm that they have read Part I and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education as well as undertaking all BMet induction training in relation to Safeguarding and Prevent.

**Peer on peer abuse**

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a college closure or partial closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse, including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision. Extra care should be taken where groups have mixed age, developmental stages, are attending other education establishments as an interim measure and similar. When making contact with these families our staff may ask about relationships between learners.

**Quality and delivery of remote education**

The college has a senior leader with responsibility for the quality and delivery of remote education. The Vice Principal for Curriculum & Quality will work closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the identification of any safeguarding / child protection issues that arise from remote learning activities.

* All online delivery will be undertaken on approved college platforms.
* Staff will only communicate through approved college platforms online, by text, email and phone.
* Staff and students are expected to maintain standards of professionalism and conduct as they would within a college face to face delivery setting.

**Risk online**

Young people will be using the internet more during this period. The College may also use online approaches to deliver training or support. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of cyberbullying and other risks online and apply the same child-centred safeguarding practices as when students are learning at the College. The College continues to ensure appropriate filters and monitors are in place. The College has taken on board the guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on safe remote learning and guidance for safer working practice from the Safer Recruitment Consortium.

It is extremely important that professional boundaries do not slip during this exceptional period and protocols for on line working have been issued.

Staff can access further guidance here:

* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-remote-education> (3rd Dec 2020)
* <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/march/undertaking-remote-teaching-safely/> (Updated 8th Jan 2021)
* <https://www.aoc-services.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/e-safeguarding-on-line-meetings-v3.pdf>

Students accessing remote learning will receive guidance on keeping safe online and know how to raise concerns with the college, Childline, the UK Safer Internet Centre and CEOP. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/internet-connected-devices/>

Free additional support for staff in responding to online safety issues can be accessed from the Professionals Online Safety Helpline at the [UK Safer Internet Centre](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/our-helplines).

**Mental Health & Wellbeing**

Restrictions to movement and contact with other people means pupils are more likely to be at risk of mental health problems. College should make students and their families aware of where further support can be found. The Department for Education have produced [guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak) (updated Oct 2020) to support parents:

**Staff**

* <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/guides/digital-wellbeing-of-learners>
* <https://www.educationsupport.org.uk/>

The following organisations can also provide support:

[Kooth](https://www.kooth.com/) *Free online emotional wellbeing and counselling with self-help articles*

[Mind](https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing) [*Coronavirus and your wellbeing*](https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing)

[Mind](https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helping-someone-else/) *Helping someone else*

[Calm Harm App](https://calmharm.co.uk/) *A phone app providing help for those who use self-harm as a coping strategy*

[*Every Mind Matters*](https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/) *Specific advice for adults and young people on maintaining good mental wellbeing during the Covid-19 pandemic.*

[NHS Apps Library - Mental Health Support](https://www.nhs.uk/apps-library/filter/?categories=Mental%20health) *links to a number of free apps*

[See, Hear, Respond Service](https://www.barnardos.org.uk/see-hear-respond-support-hub) *provided by Barnardo’s to help young people in England who are experiencing harm and increased adversity during lockdown*

**Parents and Carers**

Parents and carers can access information about keeping students safe online with peers, the College, other education offers they may access and the wider internet community.

[Internet matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

[Net-aware](https://www.net-aware.org.uk/) - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC

[Parent info](https://parentinfo.org/) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

[Thinkuknow](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online

[UK Safer Internet Centre](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/) - advice for parents and carers

[Let’s Talk About It](https://www.ltai.info/staying-safe-online/) - has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation