**KANES HILL PRE-SCHOOL**

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**1.2 Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults**

**Attachment – Covid -19 policy**

All staff remain alert to any signs that during the current COVID-19 outbreak a child in their care is suffering from or likely to be suffering from harm. This include signs of neglect that may be caused by extraordinary circumstances due to measures to curb the spread of the virus.

Government guidance continues to be that children who are classed as vulnerable should be in a setting, unless it is less safe for them to be there, for example if they have a health condition which puts them at more risk if they attend. We make sure we are contacting the parents/carers of these vulnerable children, aiming for a twice weekly contact, and continue to offer them a place. If we are unable to contact this family/child we will inform their social worker.

**During the Covid 19 outbreak**

We will continue to take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well during this period and have regard to the government’s statutory guidance on [working together to safeguard children](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2). The safeguarding and welfare sections of the [EYFS](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2) still apply, including requirements relating to child protection arrangements. We will work closely with local authorities.

* We will refresh and review child protection arrangements to identify and act on new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they return to childcare
* The Designated Safeguarding Lead, (DSL) Rose Hickey will be working from home during the lockdown period but is contactable at all times. The deputy DSL Kerri Adams has been trained and acting as a DSL, within the group, in her absence. Chantelle Budd is also being supported in this role and an improvement plan is in place of how this is supported. The staff /volunteers are informed of this is who to report to.
* Any updated advice received from the local safeguarding partners will be fed back and shared with all staff members as appropriate.
* Risk assessments have been carried out, of how we will support vulnerable and SEN children and reviewed weekly for any changes , information shared with parents and EYAT – anonymised information shared with Local Authority for data purposes
* DSL has the contacts with Social Workers supporting any such families and she has maintained contact via telephone messages or reporting through anycomms
* Staff members are reminded each month to review Safeguarding policy along with What To Do If Concerned about a Child and reviewing how to act upon any disclosures. Staffs monthly declarations of suitability continue monthly
* Risk assememnts have been drawn up and all staff read and contributed to prior to opening 8th June 2020 – reviewed each week – any amendments fed back to all staff. The [actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020) was referred to as guidance

**We continue to consider what strategies they are using to keep children safe online during this period, including:**

* checking apps, websites and search results before using them with children
* supervising children when accessing the internet
* Further details can be found in [Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety guidance for practitioners](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-protecting-professionals-in-early-years-settings-online-safety-considerations/safeguarding-children-and-protecting-professionals-in-early-years-settings-online-safety-guidance-for-practitioners).

Advice for parents and this will be informed through our website and facebook page

**Supporting Mental Health and Well being**

* Staying at home for a prolonged period and the change of routine may have caused difficulties for some children, such as changes in behaviour or mood.
* As more children return to settings, we will consider the mental health, pastoral or wider wellbeing support children may need, including with bereavement, and how to support them to transition into the setting after a long period of absence.
* We will refer to the following advice as a starting point: [guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus outbreak](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). We are also receiving guidance from Southampton Psychology Service – Planning the transition back to setting
* Advice for parents and will be informed through our website and face book page
* Staff may require appropriate instruction and training on identifying and supporting vulnerable children and parents that return to the setting, for example by sign-posting them to appropriate local services such as mental health, domestic or substance abuse services. If this is needed we will contact Southampton Early Years to understand what support is available.
* As the setting takes on more children, from 8th June we will consider how vulnerable children who are currently attending will have their needs met and supported.

**Support for children with special educational needs and disability (SEND).**

Particular care will be needed in planning for children with SEND to return to this setting. Re-adjustment to the routines in our setting may prove more challenging for some children with SEND than others, and consideration and planning will be given as to how to support children to settle back into their setting.

* We will be alert to the fact that there may be children with additional or worsened social emotional and mental health needs as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19), and that there may also be children who have fallen further behind their peers as a result of time out of childcare settings, or missed diagnosis as a result of a period of absence. The designated Special Educational Needs & Disabilty Coordinator (SENDCO), Andrea Lonergan will support these children in liaison with key persons .
* The duty on early years’ providers to cooperate with the local authority in the performance of its SEND duties remains in place during this period.
* However modified duty on local authorities and health commissioning bodies to secure or arrange the special educational or health provision specified in EHC plans, so that they can discharge this duty by using their ‘reasonable endeavours’ that have been temporarily put in place. Further information is available in the [EHC needs assessments and plans guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus/education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-guidance-on-temporary-legislative-changes-relating-to-coronavirus-covid-19).

**This policy was adopted by Kanes Hill Pre-school on: 10th June 2020**

Signed on behalf of the provider by: S JOHNSON Role: Chairperson

Signatory: Date:

DATE REVIEWED:

Reviewed: 22 January 2021 Signatory and role: Next review: January 2022

Reviewed: Signatory and role: Next review:

Reviewed: Signatory and role: Next review: