



**COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection
at Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation**

Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend. Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. This addendum of the Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

Key contacts

Role Name	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Fiona Bennett	07803033664	headteacher@husthwaite.n-yorks.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Husthwaite	Gemma Goodchild	07969354470	g.goodchild@husthwaite.n-yorks.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Sessay	Katie Tyrka	07841470843	ktyrka@sessay.n-yorks.sch.uk
Co-chair of Governors	Judith Walburn		CofG@husthwaite.n-yorks.sch.uk
Co-chair of Governors	Louisa Carolan		CofG@sessay.n-yorks.sch.uk
Child Protection Governor	Liz Hebdon		lhebdon@husthwaite.n-yorks.sch.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 and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home. Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability. Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support. The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will continue

to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. The lead person for this will be: Fiona Bennett.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and the Hushwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, The Hushwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England. The Hushwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. The Hushwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – The Hushwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. The Hushwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently to not attend.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Hushwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL for both schools.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Fiona Bennett.

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Hushwaite Lead is: Gemma Goodchild

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Sessay Lead is: Katie Tyrka

Wherever possible there will be a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone for example when working from home. Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a teacher will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site (underlined on rota). This might include updating and managing access to child protection folders and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy).

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the Federation Safeguarding Policy, this includes completing a concern form and notifying the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Please speak to the DSL or Deputy in their absence to ensure that the concern is received. 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 inform their headteacher- this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the headteacher. Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Co-Chairs of Governors: J Walburn and L Carolan.

Online safety in schools

The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where students are using computers, laptops or iPads in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Online safety children not in school

The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will continue to remind all families of the need to ensure their children are safe online. Parents and carers need to be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and be clear who from The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online. Parents must be certain that providers and people they access online are reputable.

The majority of children will not be physically attending The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation. The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will ensure, as much as it reasonably can, that children are safe, tasks that are set by staff to complete online will be vetted first. When staff interact with children, including online, they will continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection Policy and where appropriate, referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required the police.

All staff will continue to follow the school's acceptable use policy and contact with families will be via The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation email addresses. Staff will not communicate directly with pupils through social media or email except when classes use Google for Education, which can be monitored.

Supporting children not in school

The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people. Communication with vulnerable persons will be on-going as needed and identified through risk assessment. Class teachers will report any concerns to the DSL and in her absence the Deputy DSL's.

Supporting children in school

The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety. The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19. The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be recorded on the teacher handover on SharePoint at the end of every shift. Where The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – the DSL will discuss them immediately with the Co-Chair of Governors and our NYCC SIA Donna Makepeace.

Mental Health

The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation is aware that the current circumstances can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Teachers are aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work when they are at home.

When children of critical workers and vulnerable children are on site, we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them. We will access additional support and advice if and when necessary through Compass Buzz, North Yorkshire's programme for children's mental health.

Peer on Peer Abuse

The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where a school 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 the Child Protection Policy. The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person. Concerns and actions will be recorded by the DSL/Deputy DSL's and appropriate referrals made of that young person.

The Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation

1 April 2020

F Bennett