



COVID-19 Safeguarding and Child Protection at IAN MIKARDO HIGH SCHOOL Addendum

School Name: Ian Mikardo High School

Policy owner: Lisa Tharpe, Operational Safeguarding Lead – T4 Trust

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Context

This addendum applies from the start of the autumn term 2021. It reflects updated advice from our 3 local safeguarding partners:

- **Local Authority**
Debbie Jones, Corporate Director of Children's Services London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- **Clinical Commissioning Group**
Selina Douglas, Managing Director TH CCG
- **Police**
Marcus Barnett, Commander, Central East Basic Command Unit, Metropolitan Police

It sets out changes to our normal child protection policy in light of coronavirus, and should be read in conjunction with that policy. Unless covered here, our normal child protection policy continues to apply.

This addendum is subject to change, in response to any new or updated guidance the government may publish. This policy will be reviewed every 4 weeks and will be approved by the Board of Trustees.

In this addendum, where we refer to measures to protect students who are at home, this means those who are learning at home as part of the Blended Learning Approach or for reasons to do with coronavirus – for example, due to clinical and/or public health advice, such as if there's a local lockdown or if they need to self-isolate.

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Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Operational Safeguarding Lead – T4 Trust	Lisa Tharpe	07740000824	lisa.tharpe@ianmikardo.com
Designated Safeguarding Lead/s	Bablee Shah	07943079963	bablee.shah@ianmikardo.com
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/s	Karen Raftery	07894167902	karen.raftery@ianmikardo.com
Executive Headteacher	Aaron Mulhern	07950953847	aaron.mulhern@ianmikardo.com
T4 Trust Director of Safeguarding	Julie Pierzchniak	07876 545006	julie.pierzchniak@t4trust.co.uk
Chair of Governors	Chris Weavers		
Safeguarding Governor	Helal Ahmed		
Welfare Team Parent Engagement Officer	Linda Cole	07791495538	Linda.cole@ianmikardo.com
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/s	Hazera Begum	07950948061	Hazera.begum@ianmikardo.com

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.

All our students have been risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents. It has been decided by IMHS that all our student's educational needs can be safely met through a blended approach including Home Based Live Learning delivered virtually through the Microsoft Teams Platform, Face to Face contacts and sessions delivered at the 'Physical School'.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior Leadership Team, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are. We will offer additional advice, support and assistance to students and family members of those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Ian Mikardo High School will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

The lead person for this will be: **Bablee Shah**.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, **Hazera Begum** our Out of Borough Parent Engagement / Attendance & Welfare Officer or a member of the Welfare Team will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Attendance Monitoring

We will resume taking our attendance register. We will also follow guidance from the Department for Education on how to record attendance and what data to submit.

All students of compulsory school age will be expected to attend school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the pupil has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is unable to attend because of clinical and/or public health advice, is absent for a necessary religious observance).

Where any child we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, we will:

- Follow up on their absence with their parents or carers via phone, text message, email letter or home visit.
- Notify their social worker, where they have one

We will make arrangements with parents and carers to make sure we have up-to-date emergency contact details, and additional contact details where possible.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Ian Mikardo High School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for the T4 Trust is: Lisa Tharpe - Operational Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

1. **Bablee Shah** - Teaching, Learning and Welfare Lead

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead are:

1. **Hazera Begum** - Attendance and Engagement Officer
2. **Aaron Mulhern** – Executive Headteacher
3. **Karen Raftery** - Head of Post 16 and Careers

A trained DSL (or Deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or Deputy) is not available, in addition to the above, a member of the senior Leadership Team will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding of IMHS blended learning approach which includes Home Based Live Learning delivered virtually through the Microsoft Teams Platform, Face to Face contacts and latterly sessions delivered at the 'Physical School'.

This might include updating and managing access to My Concern and SIMS liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers and/or the police.

It is important that all Ian Mikardo High School staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, the staff will meet both virtually and physically and be made aware of who that person is and how to contact them.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

As of the 08.03.2021 the timing of the school day will return back to a normal timetable:

- 09:00 – 15:00 for students
- Staff will arrive at 08:30am and leave at 16:30pm

Reporting a Concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via SIMS which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access SIMS from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Executive Headteacher and the Operational Safeguarding Lead - T4 Trust. This will 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 online, they should report the concern to the Executive Headteacher verbally via phone and then followed up with an email to the Executive Headteacher.

Concerns around the Executive Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors:

Chris Weavers

The T4 Trust will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

Safeguarding Training and Induction

We will make sure staff and volunteers are aware of changes to our procedures and local arrangements.

All staff, volunteers and contractors will carry out the following mandatory training twice a year:

- **Safeguarding**
- **Online Safety**
- **Prevent**
- **Anti-Bullying**

New staff and volunteers will continue to receive a safeguarding induction in line with the expectations of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

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. When recruiting new staff, Ian Mikardo High School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) (KCSIE).

When carrying out DBS checks and right to work checks, we will follow the latest guidance from the DBS, Home Office and Immigration Enforcement as appropriate (for example, with regards to the process for verifying documents). We will inform candidates about the intended process as soon as reasonably practicable.

We will continue to do our usual checks on new volunteers, and do risk assessments to decide whether volunteers who aren't in regulated activity should have an enhanced DBS check, in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021.

Mental Health

Ian Mikardo High School recognises that negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of our children and their parents.

All staff are aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

School staff are not expected or trained to diagnose mental health conditions or issues, but may notice behaviours that may be of concern.

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken by speaking to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a Deputy.

Ian Mikardo High School will ensure appropriate support is put in place for them.

Ian Mikardo High School understands that mental health issues can bring about changes in a child's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, all of which could be an indication of an underlying problem. This can include for example being fearful or withdrawn; aggressive or oppositional; or excessive clinginess.

Support for pupils and students in the current circumstances will include existing provision in the school, although this may be delivered in different ways, (for example over the phone, face to face contact in the community or from specialist staff or support services.

When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

We will also signpost all students, parents/carers and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

Online Safety in Schools

At Ian Mikardo High School we are safeguarding, providing learning and support through a blended approach.

We will continue to provide a safe environment with appropriate supervision in place for online activities, this includes the use of an online filtering system for students whose sessions are being delivered at the 'Physical School'

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

Children and Online Safety Away From School

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 where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in IMHS code of conduct.

Ian Mikardo High School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s, groups only
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.

- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and the background should be blurred.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms specified by Senior Managers and approved by our IT Network Manager / provider to communicate with students.
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held.

Supporting Children Not in School

Ian Mikardo High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded on SIMS, as should a record of contact have made.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Ian Mikardo High School and its DSL will work closely with the professional network to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

Weekly case management and welfare meetings are held to discuss issues that may have arisen for the students. We analyse the concerns and develop a practical action plan in order to support the student and their family.

Monthly risk assessments/safety plans are prepared on each student. A traffic light system to Red, Amber and Green to which students are high risk or low risk.

We have put in many interventions and equipment for our students to help them cope with the current government restrictions and rules on social distancing.

We have provided equipment such as, webcams, computers, dongles, and desks to make sure they are able to engage with our online learning platform. (This has been funded using charitable resources).

Activity packs have been sent out so students can engage in physical activities.

Our school Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioner and TA are undertaking 1 to 1 interventions and mentoring with students deemed at high risk (via virtual and face to face contact).

Assessments are being overseen by the DSL, priority being given to those at highest risk based on historic and family circumstances and current analysis based on student, parent and the professional network involved with the family.

Ian Mikardo High School recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at Ian Mikardo High School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of student's work where they are at home.

Staff will try to speak directly to children at home to help identify any concerns. They will use school phones and devices to make calls home.

Staff and volunteers will look out for signs like:

- Not completing assigned work or logging on to school systems
- No contact from children or families
- Seeming more withdrawn during any class check-ins or video calls

Supporting Children in School

At Ian Mikardo High School our aim is that our students should achieve their academic potential and lead independent and fulfilling adult lives.

We enable this by building mutually respectful relationships with them and showing them how to have respectful relationships with each other and with other people. This helps them to reflect and take responsibility for themselves, and is an approach that is constant, immediate and consistent. We achieve co-operation through discussion.

This addendum explains how we achieve and maintain our approach during the COVID – 19 pandemic and contains information related to guidelines and procedures established during this period. At Ian Mikardo High School we are safeguarding, providing learning and support

through a blended approach including Home Based Live Learning delivered virtually through the Microsoft Teams Platform, Face to Face contacts and at the 'Physical School'.

They will also liaise with the School Nurse to gather relevant information about any support provided by school nursing services while children have not been in school.

The DSL (or Deputy) will do all they reasonably can to find out from parents and carers whether there have been any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that they should be aware of to enable the Teaching and Welfare Team to put appropriate support in place.

The DSL (and Deputy) will be given time to support staff and children regarding new concerns (and referrals as appropriate) as children return to school.

Staff and volunteers will be alert to any new safeguarding concerns as they see pupils in person.

Social Times, Communal Activities and Sanitising procedures:

We understand that transmission of the COVID-19 is at the forefront of our minds and the safety of our school community is our top priority.

As such, we have installed new sinks for hand washing and acquired a significant store of sanitising gels and PPE equipment that will be available for use upon return to the physical school.

As our students arrive to school, they will be welcomed at the entrance by a member of staff who will ensure that they wash and then sanitise their hands. We will also regularly clean contact surfaces with anti-bacterial wipes and maintain very high standards of hygiene.

The school will be deep cleaned regularly at the end of each day, with a particular focus on sanitising communal areas.

During learning, students will be prompted to apply sanitising gel and encouraged to wash their hands and dry using a disposable paper towel at various times throughout the day and most particularly during break and lunch activities.

Where possible, our Social Curriculum activities will be facilitated outdoors, with seating and hygiene arrangements in place to respect social distancing during lunch.

Transport and Welfare Team:

We have been in touch with the transport departments from each of the boroughs we work with and received their policies and procedures for transporting students. The Welfare Team have been in contact with all the transport departments and have arranged this for students who require this service.

Some further information:

Social Distancing

We will keep students in their tutor groups as much as possible, however during breaks and communal activities we will be working to maintain social distancing. The school is equipped with signage and classroom posters that will help to remind us all of our responsibilities in this regard.

Breakfast:

There will be a variety of options for breakfast, including 'grab bags' so that the students don't need to stand in line for too long waiting to be served. The students will then be able to more effectively socially distance and will of course be guided and supported by staff to collect and eat their breakfast.

Lunch:

Lunch will be provided both hot and cold lunches provided both in the dining area.

Other social distancing and safety measures

NB: *Social distancing requirements at IMHS are on the '2 metres + principle – maximal distance between all attendees will be strictly adhered to at all times.

Effective from 17th May 2021: Students will no longer be required to wear face coverings in schools and colleges.

- **Effective from Monday 16 August:** people who are double jabbed or aged under 18 will no longer be legally required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.
- Everyone will be asked not to come into school if they need to self-isolate under current guidance. Regular reminders will be given about this. Communication with families is key to minimising the potential risk to the school and wider community and regular contact and sharing of symptom indicators is paramount.
- Anyone self-isolating with or without symptoms will be encouraged to access testing and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.

If a symptomatic person comes into school, they will be sent home immediately or isolated in a ventilated space until they can be picked up or appropriate transport arranged. They will preferably be asked to remain in the 1:1 learning room adjacent to the Welfare Office (which will be ventilated) if this is not available, the conference room should be used for this purpose. Should this person require use of the toilet they will be guided to use the toilet opposite,

which will be disinfected immediately after and the identified for deep clean as will the 1:1 room. 999 will be called if they are seriously ill

- We will be limiting the number of visitors to the school site and have protocols in place to ensure that visitors are socially distancing and adhering to hygiene and sanitising practices upon entry to the school building. Any parents who needs to come onto site should contact the school and arrange a meeting with the relevant member of staff. All parents will need to sanitise on arrival.
- All rooms are well ventilated and where possible, windows will remain open, allowing fresh air to circulate.

Hygiene

- There will be hand sanitizer in every classroom. Students will sanitise at the start of every lesson and will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently.
- Students' desks and classroom furniture will be frequently wiped down with sanitiser throughout the lessons to ensure the highest standards of hygiene.
- We have an individual risk assessment for each subject area that requires the use of equipment and we are follow Government guidance with regard to sharing equipment.

Local lockdowns

There is a possibility that we may be subject to a local lockdown and that some, or all of the students may have to work from home again for a while next academic year. We are ready to reinstate our online learning programme through the Microsoft Team platform using the equipment delivered at the end of the Spring Term.

If your child feels ill

- If your child has a continuous cough, a high temperature, or has recently lost their sense of taste or smell, please do not send him or her to school.
- They will need to remain at home and contact <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> to organise for your child to have a test. Contact the testing people on the day that the symptoms start and liaise with the school Welfare Dept. and we will be happy to support you through this process.

- If you suspect that someone in your household may have COVID-19 then, the current guidance says that you should all self-isolate until the test results are received.
- If the test was negative, you can usually stop self-isolating. Please go to this website for more information, <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/what-your-test-result-means/>.

Lateral Flow Testing

As part of the Government's efforts to manage the spread of Coronavirus and reduce the risk of Covid-19, the Government requires all students to have a Lateral Flow Tests, (LFT), before they return to school in September.

Testing

Those parents who consented for their child to be tested in March 2021 will receive a phone call the week of the 1st September 2021 by the Welfare Team and a text reminder on the 3rd September that their child will be tested on (06.09.2021) Parents Day.

Students will be tested at school on:

- Monday 6th September – (During parents Day)

On the day of their test, your child should come to school at the required time arranged by your child's Tutor for Parents Day.

Following the LFT, students will be given a home testing kit whereby it has been advised by Public Health England, (PHE), that they test twice a week, following the school tests, at home 3-5 days apart.

From the 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Parents/carers and students will be provided with information along with video links on how to conduct the tests safely and interpret the results and members of the Welfare Team will provide support and guidance needed for administration of the tests which we recommend are completed twice weekly.

All Lateral Flow Test results are recorded onto Medical Tracker which both staff and parents can access remotely from home.

- We recommend testing for both staff and students: **Sunday's** and **Wednesday's**

This is a measure taken to ensure optimal safety for all members of our school community

Peer on Peer Abuse

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 of the Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on SIMS and appropriate referrals made.

Ian Mikardo High School will be mindful that some peer relationships may have deteriorated over any closure period and if indeed any online peer on peer abuse has taken place that comes to light on the wider reopening of the school actions will be taken and support provided as outlined in the school's Child Protection Policy.

Support From the T4 TRUST

The T4 TRUST will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively.

This includes, remotely accessing Child Protection files for the purpose of quality assurance, support, guidance and direction.

The T4 TRUST will also provide regular network group meetings with the Designated Safeguarding Leads with all the educational providers within the trust. This may take the form of an online meetings.