

Annex 1

Temporary Policy Addendum:

COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Beaumont College

This Policy addendum is effective from 8th March 2021

College Name:	Beaumont College
Policy owner:	Mike Green & Julia Park
Date:	1 st Sept 2022

Context

On Monday 22nd February 2021, The Prime Minister announced the government’s roadmap to cautiously ease lockdown restrictions in England. This included a direction that from 8 March 2021, all students should attend college.

Beaumont College will continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance keeping children safe in education (as amended, Jan 2021).¹

We will ensure that where we care vulnerable young adults on site, we have appropriate support in place for them.

We will take advice and work with the local safeguarding partners.

We will refer to the Government guidance for education 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 coronavirus.

This addendum of the Beaumont College Safeguarding policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954314/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2020_-_Update_-_January_2021.pdf

Key contacts

Remain as per the College Safeguarding Policy.

Vulnerable children and young people

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989², including children and 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 identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and 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.

Beaumont College will continue to work with and support social workers to help protect vulnerable young adults. This includes working with and supporting social workers and the local authorities. The lead person for this will be Mike Green.

In circumstances where a family or carer is hesitant about or does not want to bring their young person to an education setting, and their young person is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Beaumont College will explore the reasons for this directly with the family/carer.

Where families or carers are concerned about the risk of the young person contracting COVID19, Beaumont College or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Beaumont College will encourage all students to attend a college.

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/17>

Attendance monitoring

We expect all students to attend college.

Parents or carers are expected to contact the school on the first day of the illness and inform us of the reason for absence so that the correct attendance codes can be used in every case of absence. We expect parents or carers to make contact to make us aware of the status of any COVID-19 tests that have become necessary and to update the college on the welfare of the student.

From 8th March 2021, we will record attendance in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended)³ for all students.

A small number of students will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms or have had a positive test result
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

The advice for students who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. They are advised not to attend college while shielding advice applies nationally.

For students self-isolating or quarantining or shielding – we will use code X.

In compliance with the Remote Education, Temporary Continuity Direction⁴ will provide remote education to students who are unable to attend college because they are complying with government guidance or legislation around coronavirus (COVID-19).

Also, we will offer pastoral support to students who are:

- self-isolating
- shielding
- vulnerable (and off-college)

The Department for Education expects colleges to grant applications for leave in exceptional circumstances. This should be recorded as code C (leave of absence authorised by the college) unless another authorised absence code is more applicable.

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1751/contents/made>

⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/923539/Remote_Education_Temporary_Continuity_Direction_-_Explanatory_Note.pdf

Where students are not able to attend college, as they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19), the absence will not be penalised.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a student, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the college Safeguarding Policy.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with students in the college, they should use a yellow form to report the concern to the Principal

Safeguarding Training and induction

All existing college staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a student.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Beaumont College, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

For movement within the wider company, colleges should seek assurance from Saltem HR Manager that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's safeguarding policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

When recruiting new staff, Beaumont College will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (as amended, Jan 2021).

Where Beaumont College are utilising volunteers for the purpose of testing, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE.

Under no circumstances will a volunteer in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.⁵

Volunteers

Beaumont College may use volunteers to assist in handing out and securing COVID-19 test kits to students and staff members. Other duties may be required such as building test kits, cleaning down areas and directing people.

Under no circumstances will a volunteer in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Volunteers who, on an unsupervised basis provide personal care on a one-off basis in Beaumont College, will be in regulated activity. This means that if a volunteer is administering a COVID-19 test whilst un-supervised, they will be in regulated activity and therefore require an Enhanced DBS with Barred List check.

Existing volunteers in regulated activity do not have to be re-checked if they have already had a DBS check (which includes barred list information).

Supervision must be:

- by a person who is in regulated activity.
- regular and day to day; and
- reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children.

In appointing volunteers, the college will continue to follow safer recruitment processes.

Online safety away from college

It is important that all staff who interact with students, including online, continue to look out for signs a young person may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Safeguarding Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to social care and as required, the police.

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

Beaumont College will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

⁵ Paragraph 183. Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (as amended, Jan 2021)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954314/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2020_-_Update_-_January_2021.pdf

Below are some things to consider if there are virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s, groups only
- Staff and students 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.
- The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- 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 young people not in college as they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19)

Beaumont College is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

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

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

Beaumont College and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

Beaumont College recognises that college is a protective factor for young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of students and their parents/carers.

Teachers at Beaumont College need to be aware of this in setting expectations of students' work where they are at home.

Supporting students in college

Beaumont College is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Beaumont College will continue to be a safe space for all young people to attend and flourish.

Beaumont College will refer to the Government guidance for education settings on how to implement social distancing⁶ and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19.

Beaumont College will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable adults on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child.

Beaumont College will ensure that appropriate support is offered to all students with respect to their mental health.

Elective Home Education (EHE)

Beaumont College will encourage parents to send their children to school, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Where an application is made, Beaumont College will consider whether a family or carer's decision to educate at home gives greater cause for concern compared to remaining in school.

Where we feel that there is additional cause for concern the designated safeguarding lead will then consider making a referral to the local authority in line with existing procedures. This will happen as soon as Beaumont College becomes aware of a parent's intention, or decision, to home educate.

Beaumont College will work with local authorities and, where possible, coordinate meetings with families or carers to seek to ensure EHE is being provided in the best interests of the child.

If a young person wants to apply to Beaumont College, we will follow our normal processes for in-year admissions applications.

⁶https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

Contingency planning

Beaumont College will ensure that for individuals or groups of self-isolating students and pupils who are shielding, we follow government guidance related to coronavirus (COVID-19), remote education plans.

Beaumont College will continue to operate as normally as possible. In the event that restrictions in schools are needed to help contain the spread of the virus, we will refer to the contingency framework⁷, which has been updated and outlines how schools should operate in the event of any restrictions.

Support from Ambito Care and Education

Ambito Care and Education will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively.

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

Ambito Care and Education will ensure that as students return, try to give designated safeguarding leads and their deputies more time to:

- support staff and students with new safeguarding and welfare concerns
- handle referrals to social care and other agencies where appropriate

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-contingency-framework-for-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings-excluding-universities>