



## **COVID-19** Child protection policy amendments for schools and education providers

Following the most recent guidance from Department of Education (published 27 March 2020) schools and education providers (Designated Safeguarding Leads) are strongly advised to create an annex, to update their child protection policy, to reflect the current circumstances.

Here are some things to consider and include, within the annex:

Is there any new guidance from your Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP)?  
Check your LSCP website/social media channels for more information.

Are there any changes to referral mechanisms for Local Authority Children's Services or the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)?

Clarity for staff as to how they raise concerns and the procedures they should be following - how has this information been communicated?

Ensure clarity regarding staff conduct issues and whistle-blowing (this may be regarding new members of staff and volunteers) - how has this information been communicated?

At this current time, who is the DSL/Deputy DSL's & any other senior leaders?  
How can they be contacted?

Clarification around the work being done with children who are either 'Looked After Children' (LAC) or previously 'Looked After Children' (PLAC).

What are the revised processes for dealing with 'Peer on Peer' abuse, which is likely to be occurring through the digital domain?

What support is in place and available for children who are not included in the 'vulnerable' definition?

Clarity on safeguarding arrangements for children who are not in school, especially in relation to online issues.

**As well as creating the annex, the information needs to be cascaded/briefed to all staff (including governors).**

**We would strongly advise that you 'bookmark' the guidance page on your web browser rather than print copies as this is likely to change regularly as the situation develops.**