

## 50-50 SYNC – SAFEGUARDING POLICY- COVID19

The Secretary of State for Education and the Prime Minister instructed schools to close from Monday 23 March 2020 due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools and other educational provisions to remain open only for those of workers critical to the COVID-19 response and those pupils who are vulnerable, including those who have education, health and care plans (EHCPs)

As a result of all of our pupils falling into these categories, 50-50 SYNC CIC will endeavour to follow the government's statutory guidance; we intend to continue to stay open as normal in line with the local authority term dates. If we can safely staff our programme, then we'll operate.

Attendance is likely to be steady, and the activities offered are going to more focused on individual based activities, educational support and wellbeing as well as feeding pupils and ensuring we maintain constant feedback to parent/carers to reduce their anxiety.

Meetings should only be conducted face-to-face if urgent or called to deal with an emergency. Where meetings do take place, social distancing advice must be followed. There should be no unnecessary travel to meetings and if a video/phone call or emailed report will suffice, then this is preferable. Physical contact should be avoided where possible and excellent hygiene must be role-modelled and expected of all staff and pupils.

Any pupils or staff displaying symptoms of COVID-19 must not be on the premises and if they are, will be sent straight home to self-isolate for at least 7 days.

Some/many families will most likely keep their children at home until schools in general re-open We have a robust plan using video/phone and digital platforms to support all young people who do not attend the programme during the closure.

Any safeguarding concerns, during this time will be treated in the same way as prior to the pandemic. All staff know who the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL) are; any concern is to be shared immediately via the report form and shared with the DSLs either in person or online.

The DSL/DDSL's will always be contactable via email and their mobile phones, even if they are not present on site. 50-50 SYNC will continue to work with pupils' social workers, local authority SEN teams and child looked after (CLA) teams. For those students not attending, our staff team working alongside the designated independent tutors and the pupil's school's allocated teaching staff will provide the best possible remote teaching and engaging support they can.

Our staff will contact families on a regular basis, they will provide a range of learning activities in line with the planned individual programme offering where some academic work might need to be delivered to their home. Other work will be sent via email if the student has access to a laptop.

Whilst we recognise that remote teaching may raise some complex e-safety safeguarding issues, we are in a unique time and we want to ensure our pupils can access learning whilst at home. Ideally all email communication will be with the pupil's parent(s) and where online lessons take place staff will always communicate with parents first.

It is important that all staff who interact with pupils, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per our 'keeping our pupils safe' policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required the police. Although we do not need to complete our usual day-to-day attendance protocol to follow up on non-attendance, we continue to make regular contact with families to ensure that we are aware of each pupil's individual situation and reason for absence. We will be, along with social workers, agreeing with families whether children in need should be attending education provision – we will continue to follow up on any child that we were expecting to attend, who does not.

Whilst we complete our attendance registers in the same way, we are also completing and submitting a daily online attendance form to the Department of Education, which keeps a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. This allows for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allows schools to provide accurate, up-to-date data to the Department on the number of children taking up places.

DSL training is very unlikely to take place during this period, however our DSL and all of our DDSLs have recently attended and completed enhanced training at the required level. All existing staff have had annual safeguarding training in September 2019 and have read at least part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019).

The DSL will communicate any new local arrangements with staff, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child. In the highly unlikely event that staffing levels mean we have to close, and on the presumption that premises would then have to close entirely, staff will be remunerated in full to work entirely from home. We therefore would aim to continue our support with the independent tutors and other teaching staff where possible via work packs, online learning platforms and email.

Regular phone and email communication with our staff and management team are in place ready for use should the premises need to close.