COVID 19 ANNEX to WBGS Child Protection Policy

CONTENTS

1. Supplementary safeguarding measures for period of school closure from Monday 23rd March

Designated Safeguarding leads will be available during normal working hours over the period of closure. Staff, parent and students have been made aware of this availability and given relevant contact details.

On Friday 20th March, Safeguarding leads at WBGS rang up all the parents/carers of students in the government's published list of categories of 'vulnerable' student to discuss whether parents and students wished to attend school during the period of closure. In the case of students with a social worker/Children's Services plans, contact was also made with the relevant social worker to discuss. Following subsequently published guidance, Risk Assessments have been completed for all EHCP students.

In the week before school closure, safeguarding and pastoral leaders constructed a list of vulnerable students who we wished to systematically monitor and maintain contact with over the period of closure.

There are 63 students on this list (which may of course expand during the closure).

A member of staff, predominantly SLT Pastoral leads and Heads of Year, has been allocated to each student to maintain primary contact and supervision over the period of closure.

Primary contacts have been given the guideline of making contact with each student and/or parent (as appropriate) once per week, but to vary that according to need/risk.

Contact is being made by email in the first instance. Issues or non-responses are reported to the Safeguarding leads to follow up, including by telephone.

All contacts are recorded on a shared google sheet for overall monitoring with weekly review of that record by Safeguarding Leads.

The school counsellor is maintaining her counselling appointments by telephone and acts as the primary contact for some of these students. The independent Safespace counselling service is also continuing, via telephone.

Our South West Herts Partnership Family Worker continues to work with a number of our most vulnerable families and also acts as the primary contact for some of these students.

All students and parents have been informed of other relevant wellbeing services which are available, such as kooth.com

2. **Protocol for safer online working**

Within the School

The school provides a safe environment for staff and students to access external content by following best practice as laid out in this document:

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/teachers-and-school-staff/appropriate-filtering-and-monitoring

Outside of the school

Lockdown offers greater challenges for keeping children safe when the majority of their work is conducted or accessed via online systems. To mitigate these problems the school uses the following protocol.

Staff

Staff have been issued with a detailed protocol about how to conduct teaching and learning when students can not physically come to the school. This details the way in which staff should interact and contact pupils and their parents. In all cases staff should use their school accounts when communicating with the school community.

There is no expectation that staff will conduct live online lessons, however should they wish to they

- **MUST** complete the details in this sheet

  o https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1e_gC5rnSXV903-8uTzYEmg32jlq0sFVrhwuWdFFGgNA/edit?usp=sharing_eip&ts=5ea000e0

- follow the guidance below
  https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qhgZLG_v1lCG8xphzZDTraQJyxjL7VOsoIbBVtbsCZc/edit?usp=sharing_eip&ts=5ea00410

Social media should only be used with registered school accounts and staff using social media to work with students should let the DSL know what technology/ platform they are using and with whom. This **MUST** be done by completing the this Google Sheet:

- https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YMor6Dg_ADSR0u4CbeYCfF6jxLrbXRLaSRLpLaumtLQ/edit?usp=sharing_eip&ts=5ea0058c

No new systems should be used and any live online learning must be done through school systems.

Students

Students have been sent this advice to help them stay safe:

- https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people

Students have been reminded

- that they should not tolerate peer-on-peer abuse and that if it hurts then it is not banter but abuse. They should report the incident to a member of the school staff of Mr Macleod, the DSL.

- to follow the ICT Acceptable Use Agreement: https://www.watfordboys.org/userfiles/files/Acceptable_Use_Agreement_for_pupils.pdf

- to report any concerns to staff at the school in the same way as they would if they were physically at school. Additionally, students have been reminded of the following services which can also be used.

    o Childline - for support

    o UK Safer Internet Centre - to report and remove harmful online content

    o CEOP - for advice on making a report about online abuse

Parents

Parents have been informed that all communication will be directed through the School's IT systems and in particular Google for Education. The dates and times for all live streams will be emailed to parents so they are aware of what is happening.

Parents and carers may choose to supplement the school or college online offer with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors. In our communication with parents and carers, we have emphasised the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children.

Parents have also been informed that further support is available to enable them to keep their children safe online and includes:

- Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

- London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

- Net-aware - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC

- Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

- Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online

- UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers