**SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION ADDITIONAL COVID 19 GUIDANCE**

**This additional guidance is for all Schools, Learning and Education staff.**

During this unprecedented period of school and nursery closures, our duty to protect children from harm remains unchanged; we all have a key role in promoting the welfare of children.

Advice and information contained within existing *Safeguarding and Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures* provides key information about our responsibilities regarding safeguarding and child protection.

Our key duties include:

* To create and maintain a safe environment
* To educate children and young people about staying safe from harm and how to speak up if they have worries
* To recognise and report child protection concerns

[**http://source.stirling.gov.uk/files/cms\_attachment/attachment/14102/safeguardingchildprotectionguidelines.pdf**](http://source.stirling.gov.uk/files/cms_attachment/attachment/14102/safeguardingchildprotectionguidelines.pdf)

**How might this change during COVID 19?**

**A safe environment** won’t relate to a classroom or playroom but we still need to consider “how” we engage with children during this time. Our culture, ethos and values remain of key importance. Interactions with children must remain respectful, inclusive, positive and supportive. Children who feel safe and secure are more likely to open up with any worries.

The GTCS Code of Professionalism and Conduct sets out the key principles and values for registered teachers in Scotland. SSSC code of practice was updated in 2016.

**C f E** can help young people learn about the world and develop their responses to a range of issues and potentially risky situations that may arise. There may be activities and tasks you could set your pupils that continue to develop their thinking around the following themes:

* Prejudice, bullying or discrimination.
* Relationships, sexual health and parenthood.
* Substance misuse.
* Democracy, politics and controversial issues.
* Equality, diversity and the protected characteristics.

**Reporting any concerns** will be done by sharing them with your **child protection coordinator.** As previously, if you see or hear something that suggests a child may be at risk of immediate harm, you must act without delay. Make sure you know how to contact your designated CP Coordinator. If you are volunteering in a hub, there will be an identified member of SLT who will act as the coordinator.

Further information about a range of safeguarding resources and learning and development opportunities can be found on our safeguarding Glowtile.

if you have any queries regarding this guidance, or about a child protection matter, please contact [cypsafeguarding@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:cypsafeguarding@stirling.gov.uk)