




BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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<h2>COVID-19 – School Safeguarding Policy Addendum</h2>			

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COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at Bishop Challoner Catholic College

This addendum must be read in line with:

Bishop Challoner Catholic College Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019.

Guidance - Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

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1. Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all child care providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of students - students who are vulnerable, and students whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This addendum of the Bishop Challoner Catholic College Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

Key contacts

Role	Name	Email address
Principal	Dr J Coughlan	j.coughlan@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Mrs E Breen	e.breen@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk
Deputy DSL	Mrs K Peckover	k.peckover@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk
Deputy DSL	Mrs M Nutt	m.nutt@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk
Deputy DSL	Mr S Tipping	s.tipping@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk
Deputy DSL	Mr D Woodbridge	d.woodbridge@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

2. Vulnerable students

Vulnerable students include those who have a social worker and those students and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care plans (EHCP)

Those who have a social worker include students who have a Child Protection Plan (CP), Child in Need Plan (CiN) and those who are looked after (LAC) by the Local Authority. A student may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children's Act 1989.

Those with an EHCP will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many students with EHCP's can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable students are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving Children's social care support.

Bishop Challoner Catholic College will continue to work with and support the students social workers to help protect vulnerable students. This includes working with and supporting Children's social workers and the Local Authority Virtual School Head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be: Eileen Breen

There is an expectation that vulnerable students who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Bishop Challoner Catholic College will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of their child contracting COVID-19, Bishop Challoner Catholic College or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Bishop Challoner Catholic College will encourage our vulnerable students to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

3. Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

Bishop Challoner Catholic College and Social Workers will agree with parents/carers whether students need to be attending school. Bishop Challoner Catholic College will then follow up on any student that they were expecting to attend, who does not. Bishop Challoner Catholic College will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

In line with guidance from Birmingham City Council, attempts will be made to have telephone contact with all vulnerable students at least weekly and all other students every two weeks. Contact with students and/or families will be recorded centrally. Any safeguarding concerns will be raised immediately with a DSL.

To support the above, Bishop Challoner Catholic College will, when communicating with parents/carers confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable student does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Bishop Challoner Catholic College will notify their social worker.

In the event that Bishop Challoner Catholic College supervises a student/s from another educational setting. A senior member of staff will contact their home school to gather all relevant information to risk assess appropriately.

4. Designated Safeguarding Lead

Bishop Challoner Catholic College has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSL's.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs Eileen Breen

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs K Peckover

Mrs M Nutt

Mr S Tipping

Mr D Woodbridge

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing access to the child protection online folder and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with the students Social Workers.

It is important that all Bishop Challoner Catholic College staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to contact them.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
K Peckover	D Woodbridge	M Nutt	S Tipping	E Breen
D Woodbridge	E Breen	S Tipping	M Nutt	K Peckover

The DSL’s will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

5. Reporting a concern

Procedures for reporting a safeguarding concern

1. Continue to follow normal safeguarding procedures and policies as outlined in the Bishop Challoner Catholic College Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
2. A DSL has been assigned to be available every day, either onsite or remotely.
3. In the event that a DSL is not available on site and you need to contact one please call:

E Breen
K Peckover
M Nutt
S Tipping
D Woodbridge

4. In the unlikely event that you cannot contact those members of staff contact Children’s Services on 0121 303 1888 or the out of hours duty team 0121 464 9001, or go on line to <https://www.birminghamstudentrenstrust.co.uk/>
5. If you are worried about a student and your enquiry relates to a student who is at immediate risk, please call 999 and ask for the police.

6. Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID-19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read **Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019)**. The DSL should 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 Bishop Challoner Catholic College they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another education setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the Bishop Challoner Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

7. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Bishop Challoner Catholic 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 (2019) (KCSIE). In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

Where Bishop Challoner Catholic College are utilising volunteers, 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 who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

Bishop Challoner Catholic College will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a student or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

Bishop Challoner Catholic College will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing:

Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Bishop Challoner Catholic College will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

8. Online safety in schools and colleges

Bishop Challoner Catholic College will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of a Smoothwall the online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place. <K:\Teaching\Child Protection\COVID-19 safeguarding\Online Safety Remote Learning v2.pdf>

9. Children and online safety away from school and college

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

Bishop Challoner Catholic College will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. <K:\Teaching\Child Protection\COVID-19 safeguarding\Online Safety Remote Learning v2.pdf>

10. Supporting students not in school

Bishop Challoner Catholic 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 school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that student or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded, as should a record of all contact which has been made.

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

Bishop Challoner Catholic College and its DSL's will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Bishop Challoner Catholic College recognises that school is a protective factor for students and the current circumstances, can affect their mental health and their parents/carers. Teachers at Bishop Challoner Catholic College need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work when the students are at home.

Bishop Challoner Catholic College will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable students on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each student and recorded.

11. Supporting students in school

Bishop Challoner Catholic College is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Bishop Challoner Catholic College will continue to be a safe space for all students to attend and flourish. The Principal will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Bishop Challoner Catholic College will refer to the Government guidance for education and child care 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 COVID-19.

Bishop Challoner Catholic College will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable students on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each student and recorded on SIMS.

Where Bishop Challoner Catholic College has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead of deputies or first aiders this will be discussed immediately with the SMT.