

Annex 1



LEEDS CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION
POLICY FOR SCHOOLS & COLLEGES**

Addendum

**COVID-19 school closure arrangements for
Safeguarding and Child Protection at
St Bartholomew's C of E PS**

St Bartholomew's C of E PS: St Bartholomew's C of E PS

Policy owner: JW

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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 and children who are vulnerable and cannot be safely cared for at home.

It is the responsibility of the host school for safeguarding and child protection for all pupils who are attending regardless of whether they are on roll at that school.

All staff working in schools should understand their specific roles in the safeguarding of children.

This addendum of the St Bartholomew's C o E PS Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

2. Key contacts

Please contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns

Tel: 0113263929

Email: info@stbartsleeds.org.uk

3. Other Key Contacts:

Children's Services Education Safeguarding Team Email: estconsultation@leeds.gov.uk	0113 3789685
Children's social work service duty and advice team Email: childscreening@leeds.gov.uk	0113 3760336
Emergency Duty Team (Out of hours) Email: childrensEDT@leeds.gov.uk	0113 5350600
Prevent Team Email: prevent@leeds.gov.uk	0113 5350810
LADO service Email: lado@leeds.gov.uk	0113 3789687
Leeds Schools Crisis line CLUSTER: Amanda.Hargreaves@leeds.gov.uk	0113 3783645 0113 378 3535

4. Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans and children and families with early help plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child 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 Act 1989.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the SENCO and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or 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 children and young people with EHC plans 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 deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

St Bartholomew's C of E PS will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. 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: Billy Waters

The offer to attend school is extended to all identified vulnerable children who have a social worker, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at increased 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 St Bartholomew's C of E PS will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent and this will be recorded.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, St Bartholomew's C of E PS or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

St Bartholomew's C of E PS will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

5. 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.

If St Bartholomew's C of E PS has any children in attendance (e.g. because they are vulnerable or their parent(s) / carers are critical workers) we will submit the daily attendance sheet to the DfE by 12 noon -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>

If the school has closed, we will complete the return once as requested by the DfE.

St Bartholomew's C of E PS and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – St Bartholomew's C of E PS will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. St Bartholomew's C of E PS 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.

To support the above St Bartholomew's C of E PS will, when communicating with parents/carers and 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 child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, St Bartholomew's C of E PS will notify their social worker.

6. Designated Safeguarding Lead

St Bartholomew's C of E PS school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and four Deputy DSLs.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Jane Wainwright

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Collette Lawson/Billy Water/David Needham/Lisa McCaffrey

There will be a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site whilst the school remains open.

The trained DSL (or deputy) will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing access to child protection records both offline or online management system, and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

It is important that all St Bartholomew's C of E PS staff have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, the staff are aware of the DSL/deputy and it is identified on the weekly rotas. All onsite staff should be made aware of the children's services education safeguarding team consultation line number (0113 3789685) should a DSL be unavailable and they require safeguarding advice.

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

The senior DSL will ensure that operational staff with designated safeguarding responsibilities, access regular supervision, which can be undertaken remotely through electronic communications (e.g. skype, mobile communications etc.)

7. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy and complete a Cause for Concern form.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should contact their Headteacher [REDACTED]

(. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Sheila Banks – info@stbartsleeds.org.uk.

All staff must follow Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) and the local authority model safeguarding model child protection policy (section 10.2) guidance for managing allegations against staff. The case manager must use the local authority designated officer (LADO) notification form (see Appendix 13 of local authority model safeguarding model child protection policy) in order to assess the level of concern. As part of this initial consideration, the case manager should consult with their school's HR Advisor/provider/contact. The completed LADO notification form must be sent to lado@leeds.gov.uk within one working day of the allegation being made.

The education safeguarding team manager (Raminder Aujla raminder.aujla@leeds.gov.uk) will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

8. Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place 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 child.

9. Online safety in schools and colleges

St Bartholomew's C of E PS will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

10. Children and online safety away from school and college

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

St Bartholomew's C of E PS will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons or updates, especially where webcams are involved:

- Staff must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; staff need to be mindful that backgrounds do not compromise personal confidentiality or breach the guiding principles of safer working practice guidance for staff working in educational settings.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms specified by senior managers and approved by our IT network manager / provider to communicate with pupils

11. Supporting children not in school

St Bartholomew's C of E PS is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child 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 child or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded, as should a record of contact have made.

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

St Bartholomew's C of E PS and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly 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.

St Bartholomew's C of E PS recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at St Bartholomew's C of E PS need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

12. Supporting children in school

St Bartholomew's C of E PS is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

St Bartholomew's C of E PS will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

St Bartholomew's C of E PS will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare 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 COVID19.

St Bartholomew's C of E PS will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Where St Bartholomew's C of E PS has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – we will discuss them immediately with the local authority education safeguarding team and/or health and safety team.

13. Peer on Peer Abuse

St Bartholomew's C of E PS recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded in keeping with school reporting and recording systems (e.g. CPOMS) and appropriate referrals made.

14. Mental health and Well-Being

St Bartholomew's C of E PS recognises that the current exceptional circumstances may affect the mental health and well-being of pupils, parents and staff in many different ways. School will ensure that they have details of appropriate support available and this will be accessible for pupils, parents and staff.

These are unusual and difficult times for many people and for some families they may become traumatic times and involve loss and grief. We have provided appropriate home learning for our pupils to complete during this period of time whilst the vast majority of pupils are at home. Although learning is very important, and we want to make the best use of this time, we recognise that the expectations of this may be challenging on some students and families. School will provide reassurance and support to pupils, parents and staff in order to manage these expectations without putting additional stresses and pressure on individuals.

Schools may also wish to ensure that there is a plan in place for how any bereavements may be handled, including obtaining support services as appropriate.

Useful contacts/web links:

Child line: 0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

www.nhs.uk

Mind.org.uk

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing

www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips

www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak

www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/talking-to-children-about-feelings/

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

www.mindmate.org.uk/

15. Staff who bring their own children into school due to a lack of suitable alternative childcare

In addition to advice issued centrally by the Local Authority on this issue: where these are pre school children schools must also have regard to the Disqualification Regulations 2018: The [Childcare \(Disqualification\) Regulations 2018](#) and [Childcare Act 2006](#), which set out who is disqualified from working with children.

16. Support from the Local Authority

The Children's Services Education Safeguarding Team will continue to provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable DSLs to carry out their role effectively.

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