



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Safeguarding Policy

Addendum

Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: Sept 2020
Last reviewed on:	September 2020	
Next review due by:	September 2021	

This addendum to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Safeguarding policy contains details of our safeguarding arrangements during the Coronavirus pandemic.

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Context

From September 2020, all children will be asked to return to school, full time, after a period of school closure due to the COVID19 lockdown. Between June and July, children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 were invited back to school, and school continued its Key Worker and vulnerable children provision.

From September, a rise in disclosures is expected following an absence from school for so long, and that attendance for vulnerable children may be low.

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. Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. We also class vulnerable children as: those Looked After or Previously Looked After; children on the edge of Social Care involvement; and any children with specific risk factors in their school history.

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.

St Joseph's 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.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend school, 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 school, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and school will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, school or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England. We will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend school wherever possible.

Attendance monitoring

From September, all vulnerable children should be attending school. The admin team will liaise with the DSL/deputy DSL daily to monitor these children and appropriate action will be taken to report the matter to social services or if necessary, the police. To support the above, St Joseph's 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 Joseph's will notify their social worker.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via **My Concern**, which can be done remotely. All staff have login details and access to the system.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access My Concern, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This will ensure that the concern is received.

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 email the Headteacher. 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 – Eileen Mullin.

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). Safeguarding training is planned for September, for existing and new staff, and will include Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL/Safeguarding Officer will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child, and will induct all new staff with CP arrangements.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter school, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce 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 and that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training. Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (KCSIE). In response to COVID19, 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 we 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.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE. We 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.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current national emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that we are aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in

regulated activity. We continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148-156 in KCSIE.

Online safety in school

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where children are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place and key messages of essential online safety will continue to be shared with the children by the supervising teachers.

Staff have been reminded to stay vigilant at a time where there has been increased cyber-attacks, hoax emails and scams. Please refer the www.saferinternet.org for more information on online safety.

Children and online safety away from school

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 Safeguarding Policy and, where appropriate, referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required. Our staff set work online but to not engage in online lesson streaming.

We ensure that any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Supporting children not in school

Whilst the expectation is that every child returns to school in September, there will be some children accessing online work at home and not attending school. This may be due to illness, self-isolation, shielding or parental refusal to send the child to school.

We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our children. Where the DSL or Safeguarding Team 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. They will remain being monitored through the usual Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures and Child(ren) Missing Education (CME). The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, contact with other professionals etc. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded and as directed by the Headteacher. All children with any Social Care input are automatically given a communication plan if not attending school.

The DSLs 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 DSLs will consider any referrals as appropriate. The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Supporting children in school

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils and 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.

We will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on re-opening in September, and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

Where the school 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 and the Department for Education (DfE).

New children

If the school takes on any new children during this period, the DSL will contact the child's previous school for full information on Safeguarding from that school's DSL. Parents will also be asked if there is any Social Care involvement when enrolling. All relevant information will be uploaded onto My Concern and all staff working with that child will be made aware of the concerns, where appropriate. Staff will then follow our Safeguarding Policy and procedures, as they would for any member of the school community.

Peer-On-Peer abuse

St. Joseph's recognises that during this period 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, we will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within the Safeguarding Policy. The school will listen and work with children, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that child. Concerns and actions must be recorded on My Concern and appropriate referrals made.