

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Addendum

COVID-19

Adopted by governors April 2020

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Important contacts

| ROLE | NAME | CONTACT DETAILS |
|---|------------------|--|
| Designated safeguarding lead (DSL) | Moya Richardson | 020 7485 7997 deputy@ourladys.camden.sch.uk |
| Deputy DSL | Alice Blincow | 020 7485 7997 Ablincow1.202@lgflmail.org |
| Executive Headteacher | Juliette Jackson | 020 7624 4837 head@steugene.camden.sch.uk |
| Local authority designated officer (LADO) | Sophie Kershaw | 020 7974 4556 lbcmarshadmin@camden.gov.uk.cjism.net |
| Chair of governors | Margaret Harvey | 020 7485 7997 admin@ourladys.camden.sch.uk |

1. Scope and definitions

This appendix applies during the period of school closure due to COVID-19, and reflects updated advice from Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership

It sets out changes to our normal child protection policy in light of the Department for Education's guidance Coronavirus: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers, and should be read in conjunction with that policy.

Unless covered here, our normal child protection policy continues to apply.

The Department for Education's (DfE's) definition of 'vulnerable children' includes those who:

- Have a social worker, including children:
 - With a child protection plan,
 - Assessed as being a child in need,
 - Looked after by the local authority.
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan.

2. Core safeguarding principles

We will still have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Although we are operating in a different way to normal, we are still following these important safeguarding principles:

- The best interests of children must come first,
- If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act on it immediately,
- A designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy should be available at all times (see section 5 for details of our arrangements),
- It's essential that unsuitable people don't enter the school workforce or gain access to children,
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online.

3. Reporting concerns

All staff and volunteers must continue to act on any concerns they have about a child immediately. It is still vitally important to do this, both for children still attending school and those at home.

As a reminder, all staff should continue to work with and support children's social workers, where they have one, to help protect vulnerable children.

4. Senior Leadership

In event of the head of school self-isolating or being incapacitated due to ill health the Assistant Head teacher will automatically assume full responsibilities as deputised head and lead DSL. In the event that the head of school's absence is longer than 4 weeks or permanent, the governing body must convene to appoint an acting head of school or make suitable arrangements.

5. DSL (and deputy) arrangements

We aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

If the DSL (or deputy) can't be in school, they can be contacted by mobile

In addition, all staff have the direct mobile numbers of the DSL and deputy DSLs.

We will keep all school staff and volunteers informed by email/text as to who will be the DSL (or deputy) on any given day, and how to contact them.

We will ensure that DSLs (and deputies), wherever their location, know who the most vulnerable children in our school are.

Should the DSL and deputy DSL be off site at the same time an appointed senior leader will be responsible for liaising with the off-site DSL (or deputy) to make sure they (the senior leader) can:

- Identify the most vulnerable children in school,
- Update and manage access to child protection files, where necessary,
- Liaise with children's social workers where they need access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments.

6. Working with other agencies

We will continue to work with children's social care, and with virtual school heads for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

We will continue to update this addendum where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- Camden LA safeguarding partners,
- The local authority about children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need.

7. Monitoring attendance

As most children will not be attending school during this period of school closure, we will not be completing our usual attendance registers or following our usual procedures to follow up on non-attendance.

The exception to this is where any child we expect to attend school during the closure doesn't attend, or stops attending. In these cases, we will:

- Follow up on their absence with their parents or carers, by phone and email
- Notify their social worker, where they have one

We are using the Department for Education's daily online attendance form to keep an accurate record of who is attending school.

We will make arrangements with parents and carers to make sure we have up-to-date emergency contact details, and additional contact details where possible. The SLT and office manager have access to admin@ourladys.camden.sch.uk emails and will pass on any details to duty DSL.

8. Peer-on-peer abuse

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education when managing reports and supporting victims of peer-on-peer abuse.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately – about both children attending school and those at home.

9. Concerns about a staff member or volunteer

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately – whether those concerns are about staff/volunteers working on site or remotely.

We will continue to refer adults who have harmed or pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

We will continue to refer potential cases of teacher misconduct to the Teaching Regulation Agency. We will do this using the email address Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk for the duration of the COVID-19 period, in line with government guidance.

10. Support for children who aren't 'vulnerable' but where we have concerns

We have the option to offer places in school to children who don't meet the Department for Education's definition of 'vulnerable', but who we have safeguarding concerns about. We will work with parents/carers to do this.

If these children will not be attending school, we will put a contact plan in place, as explained in section 11 below.

11. Contact plans

The school will record all contacts using the general contact log (see appendix A).

We have contact details for children with a social worker and children who we have safeguarding concerns about, for circumstances where:

- They won't be attending school (for example where the school, parent/carer and social worker, if relevant, have decided together that this wouldn't be in the child's best interests); or
- They would usually attend but have to self-isolate

We have agreed these plans with children's social care where relevant, and will review them annually.

If we can't make contact, we will contact children's social care or the police.

12. Safeguarding all children

Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time potentially puts all children at greater risk.

Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on concerns immediately in line with the procedures set out in section 3 above.

For children at home, they will look out for signs like:

- No contact from children or families
- Seeming more withdrawn during any class check-ins or video calls

Children are likely to be spending more time online during this period – see section 13 below for our approach to online safety both in and outside school.

See section 14 below for information on how we will support pupils' mental health.

13. Online safety

13.1 In school

We will continue to have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place in school.

If IT staff are unavailable, our contingency plan is to seek support from Camden LA.

13.2 Outside school

If/where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow our existing staff behaviour policy/code of conduct/IT acceptable use policy. Any such online activity will only be permitted from the school base and not from a staff member's own home.

Staff will only contact families using school devices, such as phones and pcs.

Staff will not create videos at their own homes for distribution to classes or individual children.

Staff will continue to be alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm online, and act on any concerns immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out in section 3 of this addendum.

We will make sure children know how to report any concerns they have back to our school, and signpost them to other sources of support too.

13.3 Working with parents and carers

We will make sure parents and carers:

- Are aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of staying safe online,
- Know what our school is asking children to do online, including what sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school,
- Are aware that they should only use reputable online companies or tutors if they wish to supplement the remote teaching and resources our school provides,
- Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online, such as NSPCC.

14. Mental health

Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils.

We will signpost all pupils, parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

15. Staff recruitment, training and induction

15.1 Recruiting new staff and volunteers

We continue to recognise the importance of robust safer recruitment procedures, so that adults and volunteers who work in our school are safe to work with children.

We will continue to follow our safer recruitment procedures, and part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

In urgent cases, when validating proof of identity documents to apply for a DBS check, we will initially accept verification of scanned documents via online video link, rather than being in physical possession of the original documents. This approach is in line with revised guidance from the DBS.

New staff must still present the original documents when they first attend work at our school.

We will continue to do our usual checks on new volunteers, and do risk assessments to decide whether volunteers who aren't in regulated activity should have an enhanced DBS check, in accordance with paragraphs 167-172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

15.2 Safeguarding induction and training

We will make sure staff and volunteers are aware of changes to our procedures and local arrangements.

New staff and volunteers will continue to receive:

- A safeguarding induction,
- A copy of our children protection policy (and this addendum),
- Keeping Children Safe in Education part 1.

15.4 Keeping records of who's on site

We will keep a record, through InVentry, of which staff and volunteers are on site each day, and that appropriate checks have been carried out for them.

We will continue to keep our single central record up to date.

16. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the LA or DfE is updated, and as a minimum every 3-4 weeks by SLT. At each review, it will be approved by the governing body.

17. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Child protection policy
- Staff [behaviour policy/code of conduct]
- IT acceptable use policy
- Health and safety policy
- Online safety policy
- Whistle-blowing
- Behaviour and Anti-bullying policy

Appendix A

COVID19 CONTACT LOG

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Date & time of contact</p> <p>Phone <input type="checkbox"/> email <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>From school <input type="checkbox"/> To school <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Names</p> <p>child</p> <p>staff</p> <p>parent</p> <p>other</p> |
| | |
| <p>Date & time of contact</p> <p>Phone <input type="checkbox"/> email <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>From school <input type="checkbox"/> To school <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Names</p> <p>child</p> <p>staff</p> <p>parent</p> <p>other</p> |
| | |
| <p>Date & time of contact</p> <p>Phone <input type="checkbox"/> email <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>From school <input type="checkbox"/> To school <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Names</p> <p>child</p> <p>staff</p> <p>parent</p> <p>other</p> |
| | |

Appendix B

COVID19 Individual Child Contact Plan

| | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Child | | DoB | Class |
| Risk level | Red <input type="checkbox"/> | Amber <input type="checkbox"/> | Blue <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pupils who are at most risk of harm or neglect and have the fewest protective factors (e.g. those with a child protection plan). | Pupils who are at a moderate risk of harm, with some protective factors (e.g. pupils identified as a ' child in need ', and those with a social worker). | There are some concerns, or the pupil has previously been at 'red' or 'amber' and still needs to be monitored. | |
| Lead staff (usually DSL) | | | |
| Parent | | Phone | |
| Email | | | |
| Address | | | |
| Social worker | | Phone | |
| | | Email | |
| Other | | Phone | |
| | | Email | |
| Contact agreed once a day <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> fortnight <input type="checkbox"/> | | by phone <input type="checkbox"/> email <input type="checkbox"/> both/either <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Agreed days/time for contact Mon <input type="checkbox"/> Tues <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/> Thur <input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> | | AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Contact notes | | Date | |

