

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Addendum on Covid 19

Response to COVID-19

There have been significant changes within our setting in response to the outbreak. Many young people are now at home and staffing is likely to be significantly affected through illness and self-isolation.

Despite the changes, the school's Child Protection Policy is fundamentally the same: **children and young people always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the DSL in line with our established safeguarding procedure.**

This addendum sets out some of the adjustments we are making in line with the changed arrangements in the school and following [advice from government](#) and local agencies.

The current school position and local advice

St Gregory's Catholic Science College is open to those children of key workers and those are considered vulnerable which includes students with an EHCP. Where possible, arrangements for children to remain at home should be put in place to reduce the risk of COVID 19 spreading.

Reporting arrangements

The school arrangements continue in line with our child protection policy.

Whilst the school is opened and providing child care provision any safeguarding concerns should be reported to the DSL by phoning the school number 0208 907 8828 during the hours of 8.45am- 3.30pm.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Miss McCarthy who can be contacted via the safeguarding email address:**
safeguarding@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk

The Deputy DSLs are **Mrs Moran and Mr Prindiville and can be contacted via the safeguarding email address:**
safeguarding@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk

The school's approach ensures the DSL or a deputy is always on site while the school is open. In the event where the DSL or deputy DSL's are not on site the responsibility will fall to another member of SLT who are all trained DSL's.

Staff will continue to follow the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy (which staff were issued with in September 2019) and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about any concerns they have about any child, whether in school or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards. Staff should be extra vigilant as more pupils potentially return to school from the 1st June. Staff may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children following the partial school closures. Staff should

continue to report all concerns directly to the DSL or to the Deputy DSL's in her absence.

Children's services may be affected by the impact of the virus on staff and an increased demand for services. Where a child is at risk of significant harm there may be a need to be persistent in referring concerns to the local authority. The arrangements for contacting children's services are:

Making a referral to Brent Family Front Door:

Ring 0208 937 4300 (option 1) 9am-5.00pm

You will then need to complete an online referral at <https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/children-and-family-support/child-protection-and-care/child-protection/contact-our-protection-team/>

Making a referral to Harrow MASH

Golden Number- 0208 901 2690 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday

Emergency duty number (out of hours) 0208 424 0999

You will also need to fill out an online form, which can be found at

<https://www.harrowscb.co.uk/report-a-concern/general-referral-form-for-practitioners/>

Should a child in the school's view be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond you must phone 999.

Identifying vulnerability

In accordance with government guidelines, we have put in place specific arrangements in respect of the following groups:

- Children subject to a child protection plan
- Children who have a social worker.
- Children with an EHCP.
- Other children the school considers vulnerable. More children may be added to this group in response to concerns raised with the DSL. These children can be offered care at school if required.

The school will liaise with the relevant agencies concerning these children to determine what is in the best interest for each of these children and will keep in regular contact with all relevant agencies. All pupils within these groups have been encouraged to attend from the 1st June if they have not been attending. The school will continue to work closely with social workers to encourage pupils with a social worker to attend unless they are in a household where someone is clinically shielding.

In addition, the following groups have specific arrangements around contact and support from the school.

- Children of key workers who may attend school – (daily provision is staffed for children of key workers).
- Children at home – Pastoral support staff will contact students identified as benefitting from pastoral support on a weekly basis. Where the need is greater it will be more often.
- Pastoral staff contact all families over a period time so families have an opportunity to raise any concerns.

Holiday arrangements

St Gregory's will continue to provide places for children of Key workers and those identified as the most vulnerable over the Easter break and May half term including the Bank holidays.

Attendance

The school is following the [attendance guidance issued by government](#). Where a vulnerable child is expected in school and does not arrive; the school will follow our attendance procedure and make contact with the family. If contact is not possible by 9:30am, the DSL must be informed. The DSL will attempt a range of methods to contact the parent and relevant agencies and if necessary arrange a home visit by the school or another appropriate agency. A risk assessment will be undertaken to consider and manage the implications of COVID-19 alongside other risks perceived to the child. The risk of COVID-19 **does not override** the duty on the school to ensure children and young people are safe.

Staff will be aware of increased risk

The pressures on children and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, poverty, and financial or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in the setting of any work for children to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning – see below). Staff will be aware of the mental health of both children and their parents and carers, informing the DSL about any concerns. All staff should be aware that the recent pandemic will be a strange time for students. All staff will be given the opportunity to undertake an e-learning course; which ensures that they are aware of signs and symptoms of anxiety, depression, self-harm, suicidal ideation and what to do next. This training is provided by MindEd and recommended by the DFE.

All staff will also be made aware of the increased amount of Domestic abuse cases. Staff have received basic training on domestic abuse and online training will be available for all staff to complete.

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a school closure or partial closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the [signs of peer-on-peer abuse](#), including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision. Extra care should be taken where groups have mixed age, developmental stages, are attending other schools as an interim measure and similar. When making contact with these families our staff will ask about relationships between learners. Where necessary and appropriate reports and concerns will be referred to the relevant agencies such as Children's Services and/or the police.

We also address the issue of peer-on-peer abuse in our remote learning curriculum.

Risk online

Young people will be using the internet more during this period. The school may also use online approaches to deliver training or support. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of cyberbullying and other risks online and apply the same child-centred safeguarding practices as when children were learning at the school.

- The school continues to ensure appropriate filters and monitors are in place
- Our governing body will review arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate
- The school has taken on board guidance from the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) on safe remote learning. We have reviewed the code of conduct (which was given to all staff in September 2019) and information sharing policy accordingly and would remind staff that the only communication with pupils and families should be via staff lgfl account or the schools MLE.
- Children and young people accessing remote learning receive guidance on keeping safe online and know how to raise concerns with the school, [Childline](#), the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) and [CEOP](#).
- Parents and carers have received information about keeping children safe online with peers, the school, other education offers they may access and the wider internet community. We have set out the school's approach, including the sites children will be asked to access. Parents have been offered the following links via the school website:
 - Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
 - London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
 - Net-aware - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
 - Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

- Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers
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- Free additional support for staff in responding to online safety issues can be accessed from the [Professionals Online Safety Helpline at the UK Safer Internet Centre](#).
- Parental factsheets are added to the school website on a regular basis.

Children moving schools

The DSL and SENDCo will liaise with primary school partners to ensure all relevant welfare and child protection information is received so that support arrangements can be in place for vulnerable pupils. This will also be the case for pupils transferring post 16 if pupils have guaranteed a place at a sixth form college; however, this is not always possible.

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements, young people are still at risk of abuse from staff or volunteers. We remind all staff to maintain the view that 'it could happen here' and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to the Headteacher, DSL or the Deputy DSL.

Any staff or volunteers from outside our setting will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of the risks and know how to take action if they are concerned.

We have confirmed the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged.

If necessary, the school will continue to follow the duty to refer to DBS any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, and to the Teacher Regulation Agency in line with paragraph 166 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019.

Updated 21st May 2020

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019
- St Gregory's Coronavirus Risk Assessment
- Mental health and behaviour in schools (DfE document)