

Covid – 19

COVID-19 (commonly known as Coronavirus) has presented a huge challenge nationally to the normal running of education and childcare provision. On 23rd March 2020 all schools in the United Kingdom were closed on the advice of the UK Government to help delay the spread of the Coronavirus, and were only to remain open for those children of key workers who could not be safely cared for at home and vulnerable children who need to be cared for in a safe place.

This appendix has been prepared to explain key changes and interim measures being taken within our setting to continue to meet our safeguarding requirements during these extraordinary times and is effective until the School returns to its normal practice of work.

Safeguarding during the pandemic of Covid – 19 remains paramount. Whilst the current Safeguarding and Child Protection policy should be adhered to there are new arrangements that will need to be considered.

Partnership working

S. Anselm's School remains committed to working in partnership with all agencies.

- The Local Education Authority will continue to update the School via email of any new advice – this will be cascaded to staff as appropriate
- Domestic abuse notifications will continue to be received in the usual manner and acted upon accordingly
- Social Services will continue to be consulted regarding any new or existing concern about a child.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

When the school is open and has pupils on site (key worker children or vulnerable children) the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) should always be on site. If this is not possible, they will be contactable by phone or online video (e.g. Skype or Zoom). If the school is closed the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) will be contactable by phone or email.

As the school starts to open to more pupils the DSL will be available onsite during the school day and will remain the first point of contact should staff have any safeguarding concerns. If the DSL is unwell or unavailable the named deputies will take responsibility for safeguarding.

What to do if staff have concerns about a child

Staff have been asked to remain vigilant whilst interacting with pupils during remote teaching.

As S. Anselm's School starts to open to pupils, staff will ensure that the pastoral support will continue regardless of whether attending school or remaining at home. Contact will be maintained with all families from EYFS to Year 11 as appropriate. This will continue to be led by the form tutor.

Staff have been provided with electronic copies of the 'Notice of Concern' forms, these should be completed and returned securely to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will act upon them accordingly.

If a member of staff is concerned that a child is in imminent danger or at risk of physical or sexual abuse, they should contact Call Derbyshire immediately on 01629 533190.

Vulnerable Children

Any child who has a named social worker is considered to be vulnerable regardless of whether they are a 'child in need' or are on a child protection plan. Children who have an Education Health Care plan are also considered to be vulnerable. Children who would benefit from continued attendance at school can now be considered vulnerable. Each child should be considered individually, and a risk assessment carried out if necessary.

Children of concern who are not considered 'vulnerable'

Pupils who do not come into the category of vulnerable, but the school may have a concern about should also be considered on an individual basis and with a risk assessment.

Concern about staff members or volunteers

Any staff member who has concerns about another staff member or volunteer whilst working remotely should report their concerns directly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher as soon as possible ideally face to face or by telephone. It remains that any concerns or allegations should not be discussed with the other parties so as not to damage the integrity of any potential investigation.

Peer – on – Peer abuse / Online safety

With the increased use of social media that will come with the 'lockdown' enabling pupils to keep in touch with their friends, it is essential that pupils are encouraged to report any instances of online bullying or abuse. It is essential that form tutors keep in touch with their tutees during this period and any concerns reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher. Any reports will be dealt with in line with this policy.

Pupils, however, need to be reminded of their behaviour online and this message will be reinforced regularly over the coming weeks and parents will also be sent reminders of what to look out for.

Teachers, parents and pupils will all be provided with a guide to remote learning which will include advice for all users on 'what to do if..'

If parents or pupils do have concerns about behaviour or bullying online or whilst at school, they should continue to report this via the form tutor

The school will investigate the use of online learning tools that can be delivered as part of the online teaching.

Single Central Register

The Single Central Register remains in the Bursary with control by the Bursar who can access this remotely. Access is available through the Bursar for the Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead should this be needed.

Visitors

S. Anselm's school will endeavour to keep external visitors to a minimum, however the School will be made available for Childrens Social Workers and other partners e.g. Health who may need to see a pupil on site.

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Returning to school

Pupils will continue to be supported by their form tutors on their return to school in respect of their emotional health and wellbeing and we will acknowledge the effect lockdown may have had on their health, wellbeing and safety. Further help and support will be offered where necessary.

Pupils will be expected to follow the guidance for returning to school including the behaviour policy.

Ratified by the Governing Body 08 / 04 / 2020