



CHILD PROTECTION/ SAFEGUARDING POLICY (Addendum)

Date approved	Lent Term 2021	Approved by	St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy
Review cycle	4-weekly	Signature	<i>Fionuala Boucher</i>
Due for review by	Pentecost Term '21	Name	Fionuala Boucher, Executive Headteacher

This policy operates in line with our school mission, Catholic ethos and best safeguarding practice. St Mary's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Addendum December 2020

Schools and Education Settings - The safeguarding arrangements for remote Learning and Summary of any key COVID-19 Mitigation Planning, safeguarding and child protection changes

Name	Role	Date
Fionuala Boucher	Executive Headteacher	5/1/21
Date addendum published by the setting and made available on the website		

Addendum review dates and changes

Review date	By whom	Summary of changes made	Date implemented
7/2/21	Fionuala Boucher	Reread and general review of document	8/2/21

This addendum supports a Schools/College current child protection and safeguarding policy, 2020/21. It is part of a series of additional templates that have been issued in 2020 in line with COVID-19 mitigation planning and responses to safeguarding arrangements:

- April 2020, Addendum, Summary of any key COVID-19 Mitigation Planning, Safeguarding and Child Protection changes;
- June 2020, Annex A, The Safeguarding arrangements for the wider Opening of Education Settings to Children from June 1st.

This addendum is new information Schools/Colleges need to address to support the Safeguarding arrangements in their School/College to cover for example, recent guidance issued by the Government on Remote Learning and on Local Safeguarding Arrangements as the pandemic continues.

This Addendum also reflects any updated advice from Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership and from Children's Social Care, Reporting Mechanisms, and updated and available support services. Key information is found here: <http://www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk/>

All leaders and including Governors will ensure that they will also keep up to date with changing National and Local arrangements: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/showcase/coronavirus>
SRSCMAT advice

1. Vulnerable Children/reporting concerns

We will help identify vulnerable children and especially those children who continue not to be in school and use the available services, support and referring in arrangements, with particular reference to:

- The Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership briefing on safeguarding children at a time of significant demand from September 2020:

Appendix 1.

- Community Health Advisors (Mental Health and Wellbeing): <https://www.penninecare.nhs.uk/hymstockport>
- The locality Early Help Team (Stockport): <https://www.penninecare.nhs.uk/services/stockport-early-intervention-service>
- The Transition Team, emerging needs (Stockport) <https://www.penninecare.nhs.uk/stockport-recovery-inclusion>

2. Maintaining contact

One or more of our three our DSLs are available each day to support pupils at school and at home.

In order to ensure contact is maintained with children and their families who are not in school, we have put the following systems into place during Lockdown:

- Daily sight of pupils is expected through live lessons for each class
- If a child is not in attendance at a live lesson, and has not been in contact with the school, the office staff or class teacher will ring the parent
- If a live lesson is not taking place on a particular day, a member of staff is assigned to ring each household where children are based at home
- Through MS Teams, teachers communicate with parents and gauge the frequency of contact, following up if pupils have not submitted work/ engaged in sessions online
- A regular discussion and review of opportunities to link up with pupils outside lessons, such as social Teams meetings

In order to manage a balance of reaching out to children and families when in school and to those not in school, we have put the following systems into place during Lockdown:

- Constructed an offer which gives the same learning opportunities to all pupils, whether at home or at school
- Increasing the contact with the home-based families, to mitigate against them being or feeling isolated and to ensure we are confident that all our children are safe and happy at home
- Maintained contact with school-based pupils through discussions with parents, at a distance, at pick-up/ drop off time and through telephone calls
- Offer of devices to home-based pupils in order to ensure online contact can be made, lessons accessed and attendance levels maintained
- A number of staff have a pastoral role to play at this time, with 2 days per week allocated for telephoning pupils at home and one day a week allocated for nurture work to continue on site.
- Where we know that pupils and/or parents have difficulties or issues of which we are aware, teachers and SLT maintain contact by telephone and home visits can be enacted, where required.

In order to try and increase attendance for those vulnerable children we have identified who are not in school , we have put the following plans in place:

- Telephone calls to encourage/ increase/ attendance online or on site
- Advise that a pupil attends school, even if s/he began by accessing home-based learning
- Include families in our Team around the School (TaS) meetings, to consider support levels and multi-agency involvement
- Kept in close contact with outside agencies who work in partnership with us, such as the school nurse, Educational Psychologist, Behaviour Support service, Sensory Support Service

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Deputy) Arrangements

One or more of our three DSLs are available on site each working day. A weekly DSL meeting takes place to triage information and cases, ensuring that pupil safeguarding remains a high priority.

4. Children with a Social Worker

We expect that our vulnerable children who have a social worker and children with an EHCP will attend our school so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at severe risk.

Where a parent/carer does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, we will agree with the Social Worker who will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent and wherever possible encourage attendance. This will include children with EHCP plans and we will liaise with the SEND Team. Any discussions will be communicated to the Social Worker.

If we must close our provision and we have children attending with a Social Worker, we will liaise with other provision in our area to see if they are open and if the child/ren can attend. We will then update the Social Worker and use contingency arrangements for information sharing and recording whilst the child is in the alternative setting.

We will ensure where possible that we have joint discussions with the Social Worker around reasons for any non-attendance and the risk this poses to the safeguarding and welfare of the child. Through this discussion we can plan any next steps to try and ensure the welfare of the child.

5. Home Educated Children

When parents/carers are considering Home Education and or have taken a decision to remove the child from our roll, we encourage an open line of communication and will arrange a discussion with the family. In doing this we will inform them of their legal duties and that they will be expected to provide a full-time suitable education. We will also explain that as part of the procedure for wanting to pursue Home Education, we will notify the Local Authority of their decision and the Local Authority will need to make further enquiries directly with them.

If this decision relates to COVID-19 and there are concerns about the physical or mental health of the child or other family member, we will try and continue to offer reassurances about the measures we have taken to protect their health and wellbeing.

The DfE has published advice for parents/carers considering Elective Home Education (EHE). It sets out clearly, the implications of withdrawing children from school for the purposes of home education. We will in our discussion with parents/carers hand out information and provide this link where the option of EHE is explored:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education>

We will also provide additional information found here: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/home-education/home-education-useful-documents>. We also use information provided by the SRSCMAT, which links with www.derbyshire.gov.uk/educaiton/elective-home-education.asp

6. Remote Learning

This School/College is operating a mixture of In-School and Home Learning. If any of our children and their families need to self-isolate, for example, we will need to make provision to teach them remotely. In teaching face to face or in a virtual classroom it is important that we take steps to ensure children are protected.

Safeguarding and Child Protection remains as important in this environment as anywhere else, and our School/College will apply the School's Safeguarding Guidance to Remote Learning, just as they would to classroom working. Staff who become aware of any Child Protection concerns will continue to follow the school's/ college's safeguarding procedures and the local Derby and Derbyshire Children's Safeguarding Procedures.

When staff work remotely, we will ensure that the School's/College's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is adhered to, and the Managing Allegations Against Staff, Carers and Volunteers policy is followed.

Updated National Guidance provided by the DfE can be found on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19#virtual-lessons-and-live-streaming>

Stockport County Council's 'Education Data Hub' has published advice for Schools/Colleges on remote learning, November 2020, which is available on the following page:

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/home-education/home-education-useful-documents>

7. Monitoring Arrangements

This addendum will be reviewed and updated as Guidance from the Local Safeguarding Partners, other relevant agencies or DfE is received, and as a minimum 4 weekly by the DSLs of St Mary's CVA.

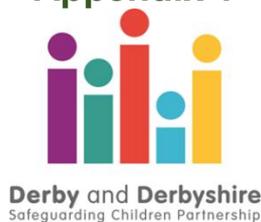
Fionuala Boucher

Alice Poole

Cathy Finney

At every review, it will be read and approved by the full governing board.

Appendix 1



Final 27/09/20

Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership Safeguarding our Children at a Time of Significant Demand

What Do We Know?

Between March and September 2020, many children and young people were not seen in their day care or school settings. We know that the lived experiences of children, young people and their families throughout the lockdown period may have been very different to normal; greater contact with family members and household pressures such as employment, financial concerns, home schooling and health, potentially contributing to an increase in domestic abuse and other concerns such as parental mental health and substance abuse and family breakdown. Children and young people are also likely to have had increased access to the internet, prompting concerns about an increase in online abuse and exploitation.

As children and young people begin to return to day care or school settings there is an understandable anxiety that significant concerns may come to light about their experiences over the last six months, and there is a need to ensure that children and families are able to access the appropriate level of help for their needs.

The messages from the data we have collected and analysed are clear; demand on all services will increase and all services must identify how they will respond, both individually and in coordination with other agencies

Responding to Emerging Concerns – Essential Questions to Ask

Circumstances for children and young people can be complex. Key to decision making will be your analysis of what you know and whether any new information which has been shared by the child, young person or about them raises specific concerns about abuse or neglect.

- Have you reviewed the threshold document and clarified all the information available to you, from your records and from your work with other agencies, to decide how serious the situation is for the child or young person?
- In all possible cases, have you discussed your concerns with the designated or named safeguarding lead in your organisation? This is an essential chance to reflect on what has been learnt and whether early help may be needed, or the situation is so serious that urgent action is required.
- If the situation does not require a referral to social care, what other services are available which could provide early and appropriate support?
- What action can/should you/your agency take which is appropriate to the identified needs of the child and family, by reference to the Threshold Guidance (e.g. Early Help, direct action from your agency or working alongside another agency).

You can also use the specific sections of the Stockport (or DDSP, in the case of a Derbyshire based child) Safeguarding Children Procedures to guide you through the process of making a referral.

Next Steps for Designated or Named Safeguarding Leads in all Agencies

Are you clear on:

- Your organisation's internal procedures for safeguarding children and young people? Do these meet the current situation and availability of support/advice services?
- Where to get help with Early Help assessments and what tools are available to inform your assessment (such as the Graded Care Profile)?
- Where to go for advice on supporting children and young people with specific issues such as concerns around mental health or exploitation?

- All the information available to you, from your records and from your work with other agencies and consideration of the threshold document? Have you reached a conclusion based on all this information to decide how serious the situation is, and that it meets the criteria for a referral?

Further information on numerous topics is available to help you on the DDSCP Website.

Useful Contacts: Children's Social Care

Area	Referrals/ front door	Professional Advice
Stockport		https://www.stockport.gov.uk/organisations/stockport-family
Derbyshire	01629 533190 (Starting Point)	
Online referral	01629 535353 (8am – 6pm)	

EARLY HELP

Area	
Stockport	https://www.stockport.gov.uk/early-help-assessment/assessing-needs-eha
High Peak & Dales	01629 531232 (Glossop)

CAMHS

Stockport	https://www.penninecare.nhs.uk/hymstockport
Chesterfield and North Derbyshire	01246 514412
High Peak and Derbyshire Dales	01298 72445