



WILLIAM BOOTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
COVID-19 SAFEGUARDING POLICY ADDENDUM

Reviewed 8th January 2021

The William Booth Safeguarding Policy (2020-21), remains the overriding document for school safeguarding arrangements. However, this document details all adaptations and additional information in relation to the school's response and arrangements as a consequence of the COVID-19 outbreak, until further notice.

1) DSL & Safeguarding Arrangements

Throughout the situation, the school will have at least two available DSL's at any given time, with an aim of maintaining one on site at all times. The full DSL list at present is:

- DSL1 Seth James 07719 710073
- Claire Paparozzi
- Claire Stafford
- Greg McEnaney
- Karen Cole
- Tom Buckmaster
- Claire Roberts

Rachel Lee (Business Manager), remains responsible for certain aspects of safeguarding (including SCR), as per internal responsibilities overview.

Steve Oakley remains the Governor for Safeguarding.

2) Contacting Families

To monitor families and offer support for the duration of partial school closure, staff can: use work phones and/or contact e-mail addresses; use personal phones providing they are ensuring that the call displays as 'Private Number'.

All vulnerable children have been identified by cross-referencing DSL assessments with the views of Class Teachers, Myconcern data and learning from the previous lockdown.

Children are identified as red or orange depending case status and for these children attendance in school is expected and any non-attendance is discussed with the relevant agencies. Children that do not meet these criteria but may still be considered vulnerable are identified as blue. Additional measures for these children will then be considered which may include: additional contact arrangements and expectations and possible school attendance.

This Vulnerable Pupil list is reviewed periodically at relevant safeguarding meetings. Children not on this list are deemed lower risk. These assessments take into account the current circumstances (e.g school closure and nationwide lockdown). These assessments are ongoing: where any professional feels a child needs to be added to the Vulnerable Pupil group, this should be shared with all relevant staff.

As well as all of the normal considerations and practices relating to school safeguarding procedures (see main policy and KCSI Part 1, September 2020), the focus of contacts should be:

- To keep lines of communication open.
- Ensuring that parents/carers can and will ask for support when needed (being mindful of commonly held anxieties about multi-agency involvement).
- To try and assess the well-being of children and adults in the house and any potential safeguarding concerns in relation to this.

- To work with key agencies (especially police and social care), where relevant, whilst recognising the additional limitations and challenges those agencies are facing.
- To monitor the key elevated risks identified in current circumstances (see section 3).

As a guide all children on the vulnerable pupils list should have some form of contact with school at least weekly and be seen at least fortnightly. However, these contact levels may need to vary depending on identified needs/risks and school's capacity to complete them (ie. should be based on an ongoing prioritisation of cases and caseload). It may be appropriate/necessary to increase contacts at certain stages - or in certain cases - up-to and including daily contact where appropriate. Equally, in certain situations ongoing assessment may make it permissible to reduce contacts or remove children from the Vulnerable Pupils list.

For any vulnerable pupils invited into school, the decision about school attendance rests ultimately with whoever holds parental responsibility (parents, carers or local authorities), but school will work with these people to support attendance wherever it is deemed appropriate and the preferable option. Where such pupils are attending regularly this negates the need for other contacts to be completed.

Parents/carers can contact the school safeguarding email address at any time. This email account is monitored at all times, including weekends and school holidays, and a response will always be issued within 24 hours. Parents/carers can also contact the school safeguarding work phone. This will be answered where possible within normal office working hours.

Home visits will be completed in line with government directives on social distancing and the school's risk assessment for home visits. Where there are any safeguarding concerns or other risk factors identified, home visits should be discussed beforehand within the DSL team.

School staff will continue to use the Dojo system to communicate directly with pupils, parents and carers of children who are not attending school. Staff have been given guidance on the safe use of this platform.

3) Increased Risks

Several increased risks should be considered by any staff having contact with children/parents/carers/agencies throughout this situation:

- Medical conditions: health of children/carers and any individuals belonging to vulnerable groups.
- Bereavement: staff should be aware of the impact of bereavement on parents/carers and children as a result of coronavirus.
- Welfare: an awareness of any families unable to ensure food and basics for children (staff should be particularly aware of families not previously identified, who may fall into this group due to loss of work/earnings caused by the coronavirus response).
- Supervision: risk of any children being left unsupervised by parents/carers working or leaving the house, where normal childcare options (e.g. providers or elderly relatives), will be unavailable.
- Care Options and Support Network: consideration of how well equipped families are to cope with a parent/carer becoming unable to care for any children (i.e. what are the alternatives?). These need to be identified to avoid children having to enter local authority care or being left in dangerous circumstances. Staff should also support parents/carers to identify appropriate support networks. Staff should be mindful that vulnerable parents/carers/children without a

safe support network, may be at increased risk of exploitation from known or unknown people.

- Domestic Violence: staff should be mindful of the increased risks of domestic violence and the increased challenges for victims looking to escape abusive relationships or situations.
- Online Safety: concerns have been raised about all e-safety risks being elevated whilst children are stuck at home and therefore likely to increase the amount of time they are spending online.
- Mental Health and Suicide Risks: staff should be mindful of the increased pressures on the mental health of parents/carers/children, caused by the issues outlined above, and the challenges of complying with coronavirus related measures introduced by the government.
- Neglect: where children are not seen for prolonged periods the long-term effects of neglect (poor hygiene, weight loss, untreated injuries), can go unseen. Where there is an issue with parents/carers willingness or ability to meet their children's needs, this may be exacerbated by lockdown restrictions and school closures.

Any concerns in relation to the risks identified above - or any other risks – should be clearly recorded and discussed within the DSL team, to ensure an appropriate response and the best possible course of action is agreed and completed.

4) Sharing and Recording Concerns

As always, all staff need to be able to recognise any concerns that require immediate action and they have signed to say they have read and understood what these are. When any such concerns are raised staff need to speak to a DSL at the first available opportunity and then record on myconcern.

All concerns or contacts (even when there are no concerns raised), should be recorded on MyConcern. Contacts can generally be recorded as updates under a 'CORONAVIRUS CHECK-INS' thread for each specific sibling group. However, where a significant new concern is raised this should be recorded as a new concern and categorised appropriately.

Any staff having contact with any parents/carers/children should be aware of these recording procedures.

Additional specific internal documents are used to record and monitor the completion of these contacts. Class teacher have responsibility for co-ordinating the contact expectations, but DSL's have the responsibility for monitoring and supporting the delivery of this and addressing any concerns raised or assuming responsibility where staff are coming against barriers to this work.

5) Key Contacts & Resources

Other key contacts:

Claire Smith (Transform) 0115 9825090 (Option 1) or 07929 521578

Jill Wilkinson (Transform) 07932 085664

DSL Consultation Line 077 111 895 44

Children & Families Direct 0115 876 4800

Allocated Workers See MyConcern records for individual pupils.

All DSL's will have access to the full bank of school safeguarding resources, and the Transform Trust Online Resources.

6) Safer Recruitment

Specific updated guidance has been given at a national level regarding safer recruitment and the use of volunteers or new staff during this period. The school has no plans related to this at present, however if it does it will follow all existing policies, as well as ensuring compliance with the most recent guidance and expectations.

7) Update & Review

This document will be updated in line with any significant change or developments to context at a national, local or school level, and discussed at least once every four weeks. Individual cases will be reviewed as soon as necessary and discussed at least monthly.

School and DSL's should remain up-to-date with the latest guidance from national agencies, including Department of Education and Department of Health, as well as Nottingham City Local Authority and from Transform Trust. All relevant staff should be mindful that given the rapidly changing nature of circumstances, relevant websites and sources should be checked routinely, to ensure that information and guidance adopted is always up-to-date.