
MOUNT ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Educating the Individual for the Benefit of All



**SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION
POLICY FOR SCHOOLS & COLLEGES
Addendum
COVID-19 school closure arrangements for
Safeguarding and Child Protection at
Mount St Mary's Catholic School**

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School Safeguarding & CP Addendum

Adopted by Mount St Marys' Governing Body 1 May 2022

Signed

Chair of Governors

Review date: 1 January 2023

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1. Context

From 5th January 2021 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response who absolutely need to attend and children who are vulnerable and cannot be safely cared for at home.

It is the responsibility of the host school for safeguarding and child protection for all pupils who are attending regardless of whether they are on roll at that school.

All staff working in schools should understand their specific roles in the safeguarding of children.

This addendum of the Mount St Mary's Catholic High School Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

2. Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Donna Chadwick	0113 2455248 ext 300	d.chadwick@mountstmarys.org
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Gillian Doughty	0113 2455248 ext 350	g.doughty@mountstmarys.org
Headteacher	Mark Cooper	0113 2455248	m.cooper@mountstmarys.org
Trust Safeguarding Manager			
Chair of Governors	Clare Skinner	0113 2455248	thehub@mountstmarys.org
Safeguarding Governor / Trustee			

3. Other Key Contacts:

Children’s Services Education Safeguarding Team Email: estconsultation@leeds.gov.uk	0113 3789685
Children’s social work service duty and advice team Email: childscreening@leeds.gov.uk	0113 3760336
Emergency Duty Team (Out of hours) Email: childrensEDT@leeds.gov.uk	0113 5350600
Prevent Team Email: prevent@leeds.gov.uk	0113 5350810
LADO service Email: lado@leeds.gov.uk	0113 3789687
Leeds Schools Crisis line	0113 3783645

4. Vulnerable children

As outlined in government guidance published in January 2021 vulnerable children and young people are defined as those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child;
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan;
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services or in the process of being referred to children’s services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET (‘not in employment, education or training’)
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
 - others at the provider and local authority’s discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself is not a determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be: Nick O'Brien

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at increased risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Mount St Mary's Catholic High School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

5. Attendance monitoring

In mainstream schools, all secondary-age pupils who are not expected to be in school during the weeks commencing 4 and 11 January 2021, should be recorded as 'code X'.

Children for whom on-site provision is being provided should be recorded in line with the normal school attendance requirements.

Shielding advice is currently in place in tier 4 areas, and so all children still deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school.

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school. Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

Phone calls will be made to the parents/carers in these circumstances.

To support the above, Mount St Mary's will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will notify their social worker.

To support the above, Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child with a social worker does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will notify their allocated social worker.

Children on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable list are not expected to attend school.

6. Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Donna Chadwick

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Gillian Doughty

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

This might include updating and managing access to child protection records both offline or online management system, and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

It is important that all Mount St Mary's Catholic High School staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, the staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to contact them. All onsite staff should be made aware of the children's services education safeguarding team consultation line number (0113 3789685) should a DSL be unavailable and they require safeguarding advice.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

The senior DSL will ensure that operational staff with designated safeguarding responsibilities, access regular supervision, which can be undertaken remotely through electronic communications (e.g. skype, mobile communications etc..)

7. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy. This includes making a report and formally recording concerns via the school's electronic safeguarding systems, (e.g. CPOMS) which can be done remotely. Or secure email systems with completed cause for concern forms attached.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should contact their Headteacher Mark Cooper 0113 2455248 m.cooper@mountstmarys.org If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Clare Skinner 0113 2455248 thehub@mountstmarys.org

All staff must follow Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) and the local authority model safeguarding model child protection policy (section 10.2) guidance for managing allegations against staff. The case manager must use the local authority designated officer (LADO) notification form (see Appendix 13 of local authority model safeguarding model child protection policy) in order to assess the level of concern. As part of this initial consideration, the case manager should consult with their school's HR Advisor/provider/contact. The completed LADO notification form must be sent to lado@leeds.gov.uk within one working day of the allegation being made.

The education safeguarding team manager (Raminder Aujla raminder.aujla@leeds.gov.uk) will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

8. Safeguarding Training and induction

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if access to their refresher training delayed. Refresher safeguarding training for all staff can be accessed remotely through <https://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/>

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL should communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter Mount St Mary's Catholic High School,, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction and training. The local authority education safeguarding team child protection training offer can be accessed remotely through <https://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/>

Upon arrival, new staff will be issued with the statutory safeguarding documents as outlined in Part One of Keeping Children Safe In Education 2020 including a copy of the receiving setting's safeguarding and child protection policy, guidance for safer working practice for staff working in educational settings, behaviour policy, children missing education procedures, online safety policy including acceptable use and confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

9. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) (KCSIE).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines>

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check

- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

Where Mount St Mary's Catholic High School are utilising volunteers (including for mass testing), we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 183 to 188 of KCSIE (2020). Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity. Undertaking COVID testing on children directly who are unable to do this themselves will meet the regulated activity requirement.

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 179 of KCSIE (2020).

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 182 of KCSIE (2020) and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 164 to 171 in KCSIE (2020). All staff employed to conduct mass testing are added to the SCR.

10. Online safety in schools and colleges

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system.

Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

11. Children and online safety away from school and college

Where students are using digital technology away from school for the purposes of remote learning, the duty to ensure appropriate supervision is the responsibility of the child's parent/carer as outlined in the school's acceptable use policy.

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in the Guidance for safer working practice (including Covid-19 Addendum issued in April 2020) for those working with children and young people in education settings (National Safer Recruitment Consortium May 2019).

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Currently Mount St Mary's High School are not delivering virtual lessons. All lessons are controlled and monitored through Google Classrooms. If this was to change additional guidance would be provided.

12. Supporting children not in school

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded, as should a record of all contacts made.

The communication plans can include: remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Staff at Mount St Mary's Catholic High School need to be aware of this when setting expectations for pupils who are engaging in remote learning.

13. Supporting children in school

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Where Mount St Mary's Catholic High School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – we will discuss them immediately with the local authority education safeguarding team and/or health and safety team.

14. Peer on Peer Abuse

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded in keeping with school CPOMS system and appropriate referrals made.

15. Mental health and Well-Being

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School recognises that the current exceptional circumstances may affect the mental health and well-being of pupils, parents and staff in many different ways. School will ensure that they have details of appropriate support available and this will be accessible for pupils, parents and staff.

These are unusual and difficult times for many people and for some families they may become traumatic times and involve loss and grief. We have provided appropriate home learning for our pupils to complete during this period of time whilst the vast majority of pupils are at home. Although learning is very important, and we want to make the best use of this time, we recognise that the expectations of this may be challenging on some students and families. School will provide reassurance and support to pupils, parents and staff in order to manage these expectations without putting additional stresses and pressure on individuals.

Schools should continue to offer pastoral support to their pupils and seek advice from services when necessary about the universal and targeted offer around mental health and wellbeing. Schools should ensure that there is a plan in place for how any bereavements may be handled, including obtaining support services as appropriate.

Useful contacts/web links:

Child line: 0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

www.nhs.uk

Mind.org.uk

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing

www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips

www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak

www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/talking-to-children-about-feelings/

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

www.mindmate.org.uk/

16. Staff who bring their own children into school due to a lack of suitable alternative childcare

In addition to advice issued centrally by the Local Authority on this issue: where these are pre school children schools must also have regard to the Disqualification Regulations 2018: The Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2018 and Childcare Act 2006, which set out who is disqualified from working with children.

17. Support from the Local Authority

The Children's Services Education Safeguarding Team will continue to provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable DSLs to carry out their role effectively.

18. The use of personal mobile phones.

In situations where staff have agreed to use their own personal mobile phone to make contact with families, staff and school will need to put in place systems to ensure the staff member's personal number is not visible to parents and carers. Staff should not give parents/carers personal mobile telephone numbers as a point of contact. In an emergency situation, where this is deemed essential, specific permission must be granted by an appropriate senior leader.

Staff who require access to their mobile phone during the school day due to: test and trace notifications (for instances such as their own children who may require picking up due to collapsed bubbles etc..) will be required to follow the principles set out in the guidance for safer working practice (12. Communication with children (including the use of technology)). Mobile phones should be used in line with individual school guidance and should not be used for non-educational purposes when supervising or teaching children. Staff should take reasonable steps to ensure they are not distracted from their duties by non-urgent alerts or notifications. Where staff receive urgent alerts related to the COVID track and trace NHS App or their own children's school they should follow school procedures to ensure continuity of supervision for any children in their care.