



Annex to Safeguarding Policy

COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

Revisions: March 2020

SLT Responsible: Mrs C Kane

Next Review Date: Ongoing during lockdown

1. Context

From 20th March 2020 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.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

This addendum of the Holy Family Catholic School Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

1. **Context**
2. **Vulnerable children**
3. **Attendance monitoring.**
4. **Designated Safeguarding Lead**
5. **Reporting a concern**
6. **Safeguarding Training and induction**
7. **Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff**
8. **Online safety in school**
9. **Children and online safety away from school and college**
10. **Supporting children not in school**
12. **Supporting children in school**
13. **Peer on Peer Abuse**
14. **Support**

Designation	Name	Email
Interim Headteacher	Ms S Mather	office@holyfamilyschool.uk
Designated Safeguarding Lead, including Children Looked After	Mrs C Kane	ckane@holyfamilyschool.uk
Deputy DSL (Y7)	Mrs J Moran	jmoran@holyfamilyschool.uk
Deputy DSL (Y8 and 9)	Mrs A Blake	ablake@holyfamilyschool.uk
Deputy DSL (Y10 and 11)	Mr K Ryan	kryan@holyfamilyschool.uk
Deputy DSL (Y12 and 13)	Miss F Brown	fbrown@holyfamilyschool.uk
Deputy DSL (Mental Health)	Mrs J Butterfield	jbutterfield@holyfamilyschool.uk
Deputy DSL (SEND)	Miss A Pritchard	apritchard@holyfamilyschool.uk
Chair of Governors	Mrs J Farrell	chairofgovernors@holyfamilyschool.uk

2. Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home. Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) 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.

The Holy Family Catholic 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: Mrs Kane.

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 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 school will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, school or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

The Holy Family Catholic School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend school, including remotely if needed.

3. Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

The Holy Family Catholic School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – The Holy Family Catholic School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. The 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.

To support the above, The Holy Family Catholic School will, when communicating with parents/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, The Holy Family Catholic School will notify their social worker.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Holy Family Catholic School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and six Deputy DSL's.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs C Kane

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs J Moran (Y7), Mrs A Blake (Y8 and Y9), Mr K Ryan (Y10 and Y11), Miss F Brown (Y12 and Y13), Miss A Pritchard (SEND), Mrs J Butterfield (mental health champion)

The DSL will be on site or contactable by phone/video call when the site is open. In the event that she is unavailable all deputies are contactable by phone/video call. 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 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.

It is important that all school staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to speak to them.

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

5. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy. For staff in school this should be done in the first instance by informing the safeguarding co-ordinator on site who will contact the DSL (or deputy). For staff working at home they should contact the DSL, relevant Deputy DSL and Deputy Headteacher with a message headed 'Safeguarding concern'.

This will ensure that the concern is received.

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 report the concern to the Headteacher. 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:

Mrs Janet Farrell chairofgovernors@holyfamilyschool.uk

6. Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID

19 virus.

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 they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL will 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 The Holy Family Catholic School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

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

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

7. 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, school name 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 (2019) (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.

Where The Holy Family Catholic School are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking

and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

The Holy Family Catholic 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 163 of KCSIE.

The Holy Family Catholic School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE 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, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, The Holy Family Catholic School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

8. Online safety in schools and colleges

The Holy Family Catholic 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.

9. Pupils and online safety away from school and college

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.

The Holy Family Catholic School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

10. Supporting children not in school

The Holy Family Catholic 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 will ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded on CPOMS, as should a record of any contact that has been made.

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

The Holy Family Catholic School and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) 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

The Holy Family Catholic 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. Teachers at The Holy Family Catholic School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

The Holy Family Catholic 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. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

11. Supporting children in school

The Holy Family Catholic School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

The Holy Family Catholic School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.

The Headteacher, or in his absence a member of the Senior Leadership Team, will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

The Holy Family Catholic 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. The Holy Family Catholic 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. This will be bespoke to each child and recorded on CPOMS.

Where The Holy Family Catholic School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – Senior Leaders will discuss them immediately with the Chair of Governors.

12. Peer on Peer Abuse

The Holy Family Catholic 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 multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

13. Support

The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL and deputies to carry out their role effectively.

The school will also provide regular group and individual supervision sessions for the DSL and deputies. This may take the form of an online meeting.