



St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College **Addendum to Children Protection Policy (2019-20) due to the circumstances of COVID-19**

Following the outbreak of Covid-19 and the Government's response to manage the pandemic, St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College is operating differently to how we normally deliver education and support to our pupils and their families. Many pupils are at home and we have a reduction in the amount of staff available. Despite this, **the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils remains paramount.**

St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College continues to follow Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019).

Due to the current unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 virus it is necessary that all schools are prepared and have appropriate arrangements in place in relation to the management of any safeguarding or child protection concerns both on and off site during this time. Therefore, we have produced this addendum to our existing school's Child Protection Policy to ensure all staff, Governors and Parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time.

The current school position

- The school is currently open for children of key worker and vulnerable groups
- The school is also currently operating a timetabled rota for Year 10 and Year 12 students.
- A Risk Assessment has been carried out to ensure that all adult and children are safe when attending St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College
- The Risk Assessment has been shared with all staff and is available for public view on our school website

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSL arrangements

On Site: While our school site remains open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are as follows:

- **Designated Safeguarding Leads** - Mrs J Bowen (DSL), Mr A McHale (DSL)
- **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads** - Mr D Bayne, Mrs R Hurst and Mrs K McHale

They continue to be our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies due to their level of training and skill.

Following DfE guidance, we ensure there is a DSL/DDSL always available on-site when the school is open.

Mr D Juric (Headteacher) or Mrs J Bowen (Deputy Headteacher and DSL) will be physically on site each day and will liaise directly with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies if any incidents of a child protection nature occur.

Should our school site need to be entirely closed then we will update our website and Child Protection Policy with our arrangements.



Reporting concerns

- Staff and volunteers will continue to follow the school's Child Protection Policy.
- Staff and volunteers will report any safeguarding concerns to a DSL as described in the paragraph above.
- If a DSL is not available, any staff or volunteer who has a concern about a child's welfare should make a referral to TfC – Integrated Contact and Referral Team (ICRT) on 0191 520 5560.

Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children

Where our school remains open, the Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are fully aware of their vulnerable children and those they are expecting into school each day. Should that child not arrive then the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy will make contact with the parent or carer immediately and if no response, they will contact front door services immediately.

Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will continue to contact vulnerable children and their families/ social workers in the following timescales if the school is closed or these children are not on site:

- children the subject of a Child Protection Plan (weekly);
- children who have a Child in Need Plan (weekly);
- Looked After Children (weekly dependent on the child's individual placement needs);
- Children with an Early Help Plan (weekly)

If there are any issues raised during this time regarding their care, safety or ability to be contacted then the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will follow their local safeguarding procedures and contact their local front door services immediately (as per our Child Protection Policy).

Increased risk

- We recognise that there is increased pressure on families at this time. There will be additional worries about health, finance and employment.
- We are aware some families will need extra support with things like food parcels and benefits advice.
- We recognise that the current situation will affect pupils and their parent's/carer's mental health.
- Any concerns will be reported to the DSL. See DSL arrangements above.

Attendance

- We are following advice issued by DfE in relation to attendance recording for education settings.
- Where a pupil who is expected to arrive does not arrive, we will try to make contact with the parent/carer by 9.15am.
- If we have been unable to contact the pupil's parent/carer or emergency contacts by 9.15am the DSL will be informed. See DSL arrangements above.
- The DSL will further attempt to make contact with the family. The DSL will also contact any other professionals involved with the pupil e.g. Social Worker.
- The DSL will undertake a risk assessment to decide on further action required.



Peer-on-Peer Abuse

- We recognise the importance of responding to peer-on-peer abuse.
- We recognise some pupils will be at greater risk of peer-on-peer abuse due to spending more time at home and online.
- Staff and volunteers will remain vigilant to the signs and indicators of peer-on-peer abuse and will report any concerns to the DSL. See DSL arrangements above.

Concerns about a member of the workforce

- **It could happen here.** Staff and volunteers should continue to report any concern, no matter how small to a DSL.
- If there is a concern about a member of staff or volunteer's behaviour, you should report it to Mr D Juric (Headteacher) school@strobortofnewminster.co.uk and address it "for the attention of Mr Juric")
- If Mr Juric is not available then you should contact Mrs J Bowen (Deputy Teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead) school@strobortofnewminster.co.uk and address it "for the attention of Mrs Bowen") or contact her on the school safeguarding mobile number: **07793-217847**
- If the concern is in relation to the Headteacher then you should report it to Mr G Moorhouse (Chair of Governors)
- school@strobortofnewminster.co.uk and address it "for the attention of Mr Moorhouse")
- Allegations about the workforce should be reported to the Designated Officer (Danielle Rose) by following the procedure available here: <https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/professionals/LADO>

Availability and contact arrangements for families and professionals who wish to make contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/ Deputies

During these unprecedented circumstances the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be available to be contacted by children, families and other services and agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all our vulnerable children. They can be contacted via the school's safeguarding mobile telephone number (**07793-217847**) in the first instance and whether they are on or off site they will gain contact with any family or professional as soon as possible.

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day 9.00am-3.30pm ONLY. Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving calls and messages outside of these times. In the event that children or families need support immediately please contact our front door services immediately (as per the information within the Child Protection Policy) or contact the Police.

Response to safeguarding or child protection concerns

As always our school's duty of care is to keep children safe and while the arrangements of the physical care of children and physical presence of our Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies may be different during this time the school's response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school's Child Protection Policy.



Identifying and supporting vulnerable pupils

Following advice from TfC we have risk assessed all pupils using a Red, Amber, Blue, Green system.

Category and priority	Suggested children	Describe who is responsible for making contact with vulnerable children/ social workers/ families for pupils within this group
Red – pupils most at risk with few protective factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils on child protection plans • Pupils on child in need plans • Pupils open to early help • Pupils open to Youth Offending Service 	Mrs Bowen (DSL) or member of safeguarding team
Amber – pupils at moderate risk with some protective factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in care • Young carers • You may want to include some pupils on the ‘edge’ of children’s social care intervention 	Mr McHale (DSL) or member of safeguarding team
Blue – pupils who you have some concerns about	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils on the ‘edge’ of children’s social care intervention • Pupils with a recent Operation Encompass/Endeavour notification • Pupils who have recently closed to children’s social care/EH 	Member of Safeguarding team
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other pupils 	Pastoral team (Heads of House and tutors)

- A DSL has risk assessed each pupil who is Red, Amber or Blue and has made a record of the risk assessment.
- A DSL will review each risk assessment on a weekly basis and will record any changes to the risk assessment.
- If a child has a Social Worker or an Early Help Worker, a DSL has made all reasonable attempts to encourage the child to attend school, providing there’s no significant risk to the child’s health.
- Every contact with a child or family will be recorded.

Children in Care

- Our Designated Teacher for LAC is Mr A McHale.
- Our DT LAC has contacted each child’s Social Worker, carer, those with PR (where appropriate) and the Virtual School to discuss the plan for the child’s education.
- Children in care will not be moved schools including to “hub schools” or within the MAT without first consulting the Virtual Headteacher.

Issued March 2020 and revised June 2020 in light of DFE issued interim coronavirus (covid - 19): safeguarding in schools colleges and other providers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>