

Coronavirus Child Protection Policy Annex

Saint Christina’s School

The following addendum was written with reference to government advice (see source link below) and put into the context of Saint Christina’s School setting:

<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>

This is interim safeguarding advice and is under constant review.

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 Saint Christina’s School Safeguarding and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

1. Context.....	1
2. Safeguarding principles.....	2
3. DfE Coronavirus Helpline.....	2
4. Key contacts.....	2
5. Vulnerable children	3
6. Attendance monitoring	3
7. Designated Safeguarding Lead.....	3
8. Reporting a concern	3
9. Safeguarding Training and induction.....	3
10. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff	4
11. Mental health.....	4
12. Online safety in schools.....	5
13. Children and online safety away from school and college	5
14. Supporting children not in school.....	5
15. Supporting children in school.....	6
16. Peer on Peer Abuse	6

2. Safeguarding principles

The following safeguarding principles remain in place, despite the change in routine:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in school or working from home has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy will be available
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

3. Helpline

DfE coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687 (for any queries about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to schools). Lines are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm and weekends 10am to 4pm. You will need the school's URN: 101169

4. Key contacts

Our School's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and the Deputy DSL, who are members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), have lead responsibility for child protection and are also the Prevent Officer and Deputy Prevent Officer responsible for the prevention of radicalisation, extremism and being drawn into terrorism. Their telephone numbers are prominently displayed in the school. Saint Christina's DSLs and Deputy DSL are:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Prevent Officer for the whole school

Mr Simon Hirst (Deputy Headteacher)

Telephone number: 07885 219384 (personal mobile)

Email address: deputyhead@saintchristinas.org.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) with responsibility for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Mr Dan Burke (EYFS / KS1 Phase Leader)

Telephone number: 0207 7722 8784

Email address: dburke@saintchristinas.org.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) and Deputy Prevent Officer for the whole school and Designated Teacher for Children in Care (Looked After Children)

Mrs Louise Ellison (KS2 Phase Leader)

Telephone number: 0207 7722 8784

Email address: lellison@saintchristinas.org.uk

Designated Governor for Safeguarding, the Prevent Duty and Children in Care.

Mrs Joan McConnell (Chair of Governors)

Telephone number: 020 8460 0437

Email address: headteacherspa@saintchristinas.org.uk

Westminster Diocese Safeguarding Co-ordinator

[Geraldine Allen](#)

Telephone number: 0207 798 9350

geraldineallen@rcdow.org.uk

5. Vulnerable children

These are children with an EHCP or social worker. We have one child with an EHCP in Nursery. There is an expectation that vulnerable children attend school's provision, unless in consultation with the child's social worker and family it is agreed that the child does not attend the provision.

6. Attendance monitoring

Attendance does not need to be kept in the same way (a daily online attendance form is submitted to the DfE) but schools should follow up with families who arranged to attend and subsequently don't. To support this, schools and colleges should take the opportunity when communicating with parents and carers to confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available. If a vulnerable child does not attend, their social worker must be informed.

7. Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Dan Burke) will be onsite. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (Simon Hirst) and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Louise Ellisdon) are available on phone and video link.

It is important that all Saint Christina's School staff have access to a trained DSL (or deputy).

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

8. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy and inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should report the concern to the Head teacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the head teacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the head teacher.

Concerns around the Head teacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Joan McConnell.

9. 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 including Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). 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 Saint Christina's 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.

10. 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, Saint Christina's 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 Saint Christina's 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. Saint Christina's 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.

Saint Christina's 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 or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, Saint Christina's School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

11. Mental health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Saint Christina's Teachers must be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Staff should be alert to any significant changes in behaviour or emotional state of the children of critical workers or vulnerable children on-site. Any significant changes noted and hence concerns should be reported to the DSL and DDSL on-site.

12. Online safety in schools and colleges

Saint Christina's 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.

13. Children 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.

Saint Christina's School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

The same principles as set out in the staff behaviour policy continue to apply to online teaching, for example and not limited to references to staff pupil relationships and social media.

Staff should ensure that they adhere to the following when delivering virtual lessons:

- Lessons delivered to groups only (1:1s may only be permitted when the teacher has confirmation that a child will have an adult directly supervising them for the duration of the session and it is considered necessary to do so e.g. a particular concern about a child's reading)
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms.
- The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms specified by senior managers and approved by our IT network manager / provider to communicate with pupils
- Staff should record the attendance of any sessions held.

Children must also be made aware of how to report back concerns which may arise when they are online. Concerns during a 'live session' should be reported to the teacher running the session and their parent / carer supervising them. Concerns arising during a recorded session should be reported to their parent / carer in the first instance and then followed up with the class teacher.

The class teacher is in regular communication with the parents / carers about what the expectations are for any given day of online learning.

Saint Christina's management will also update parents regularly with advice for keeping their children safe online and requirements for home supervision.

14. Supporting children not in school

Saint Christina's School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

In an instance where a child who is expected to attend is absent from the online provision for more than a day, the class teacher should contact the parent or carer in the first instance to ascertain the reason. Class teachers should keep a record of this and notify the DSL in instances where this has occurred frequently and include the parental response.

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.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded. Saint Christina's 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 via email channels, on its website and social media pages. Saint Christina's 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.

15. Supporting children in school

Saint Christina's School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. Saint Christina's School or any agreed provision supporting children from Saint Christina's School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Senior leader in charge will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Saint Christina's 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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

Saint Christina's School will ensure that where we care for children of keyworkers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. Where Saint Christina's 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 Senior Leadership.

16. Peer on Peer Abuse

Saint Christina's School recognises that during the closure and with extensive online provision being accessed by children, the extent of exposure to potential peer on peer abuse will increase. Where a report of peer on peer abuse occurs, the school will act in accordance with the Behaviour and Exclusions and Anti-Bullying policies.

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.