

The McAuley Catholic High School

Safeguarding and Child Protection Addendum March 2020

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should 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

This is an addendum to the Schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which can be found at: <https://www.mcauley.org.uk/index.php/policies-information>

Key Staff Contacts:

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Matt Allison mallison@mcauley.org.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Julianne Allport jallport@mcauley.org.uk

Child Protection Officer – Tracy Newcombe tnewcombe@mcauley.org.uk

- 1. All existing school and college staff will already have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of KCSIE. The important thing for these staff will be awareness of any new local arrangements so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.**

All staff have a copy of KCSIE Part 1, electronic version has been included with this policy.

Weekly Safeguarding updates will be emailed out from DSL every Friday Morning in place of the weekly School bulletin.

If you have concerns about a child you can report these concerns in the normal way to the DSL, Deputy DSL or Child Protection officer. You can also report directly through Doncaster Children's Service Trust (One Front Door)

<https://www.doncasterchildrenstrust.co.uk/worried-about-a-child>

If you feel a child is in immediate danger please contact 999.

If you know of a vulnerable family or individual they can access support from the Doncaster Community Hub

Doncaster Community Hub – Borough wide

The Doncaster Community Hub has been established to support the most vulnerable people in the borough during the Coronavirus outbreak. Please feel free to share these details with any families who you feel would benefit from the support of the Hub.

Get in touch via the helpline on: 01302 430300 or email at enquiries@dncommunityhub.org.uk

You can also visit www.dncommunityhub.org.uk.

You all have a legal responsibility to directly report any PREVENT or FGM concerns, the safeguarding team can support you in this but it is YOUR legal responsibility to ensure if you have any concerns to report it. (Please see safeguarding policy for details)

Please see PREVENT update in section 10 of this document.

Remember ALL CONCERNS MUST be logged on CPOMS.

2. Children and online safety away from school and college

All schools and colleges should be doing what they reasonably can to keep all of their children safe. In most cases, the majority of children will not be physically attending the school or 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 School will consider the safety of their children when they are asked to work online. The starting point for online teaching should be that the same principles as set out in the school's staff behaviour policy (sometimes known as a code of conduct).
- Communication with student and parents should only take place through your School email and if you call must be done via a School phone. Do not give parents or students your personal number or email, or allow them to access your social media.
- Live Streaming Lessons should NOT take place as there are a number of safeguards staff cannot ensure are in place. Link below sets out some of the key issues. [Live Streaming Lessons](#).
- If any parent has safeguarding concerns and needs advice, please direct them to the Safeguarding Tab on the School website, this has all the key contacts

3. Vulnerable children

Ensuring that vulnerable children remain protected is a top priority for the government. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with EHC plans.

Local authorities have the key day-to-day responsibility for delivery of children's social care. Social workers and VSHs will continue to work with vulnerable children in this difficult period and should support these children to access this provision. There is an expectation that children with a social worker will attend provision, unless in consultation with the child's social worker and family it is agreed this is not in the best interests of the child.

As a School all our vulnerable pupils have their own key worker who does weekly safe and well checks and reports to social worker where appropriate.

Pupils on Child Protection (CP) or Child in Need (CIN) Plan – Tracy Newcombe

Pupils open to Early Help – Tracy Newcombe

Look after Children (LAC) – Enzina Round

Pupils receiving Support through EMMUAS also open to CAMHS – Sharon Hibbert/Clare Roberts

ENGAGE Pupils – Dean Northedge

Pupils receiving support through Hallam Care Services and Me In Mind team will continue to receive support from these services.

4. Attendance

The department has introduced a daily online attendance form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. This allows for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allows schools to provide accurate, up-to-date data to the department on the number of children taking up places.

5. Conducting Welfare checks

Schools maintain responsibility for the safeguarding of every child on their school roll during school closures and/or partial opening.

The Schools will take reasonable steps to make email contact with pupils on a semi-regular basis, at least once per week for non-vulnerable groups and this contact should be logged on school records.

Any child or young person that the school deems to be “vulnerable” will be contacted via telephone at least every other day.

Should we be unable to make contact with a family (not just those who are deemed vulnerable) on two consecutive occasions the school will consider a visit to the property. This could take the form of a drive past of the family home or visit (not inside the home)

Staff members **should not** enter any households. Reasonable endeavours will be taken to ensure that the child(ren) are seen through a window if possible or if staff do visit the home they do not enter and practice social distancing at all times.

School staff who are conducting welfare visits are all aware of the most up to date information on social distancing and Government advice around essential travel. This can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

If we are unable to contact a family either by phone or in person or have safeguarding concerns, please refer to the escalation information provided below.

As always, if you are worried about a child, please contact Doncaster Children's Services Trust.

You can also find further advice at <https://dscp.org.uk/professionals>. [Here you can find further information to assist](#) you in understanding the Doncaster Safeguarding Children's Partnership Multi-Agency Levels of Need (threshold document)

You can also call [01302 737777](tel:01302737777) between 8:30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday or outside of these hours call [01302 796000](tel:01302796000)

You can email us securely with additional information at childrenassessmentsservice@dcstrust.co.uk

If there is reason to suspect a crime has been committed, the police should also be involved. *Where there is a concern that a child's safety or well-being is at risk, it is essential to take action without delay*

6. How will the Local Authority/Doncaster Children's Services Trust support safeguarding during this period?

The Local Authority and DCST will continue to work with schools to ensure the ongoing safety of all children but with attention to our vulnerable.

As well as the welfare checks we will be responsible for we also wanted to highlight the support that is available to schools, through DCST, the Early Help and Local Solutions groups.

Welfare Calls

DCST are responsible for the ongoing welfare checks for the following groups of children, as part of their safeguarding responsibilities

- Children who are subject to a Child Protection plan
- Children who are subject to a Child in Need plan
- Children who are in care
- Children who have an allocated social worker for any reason not outlined above

DCST have taken a risk-analysis approach for prioritising visits and welfare checks, which will be regularly reviewed. If schools have concerns for children open to social workers during this period, they can continue to contact the relevant team/worker.

The Local Authority are responsible for the ongoing welfare checks for the following groups of children:

- Children with an EHCP who are not on a school roll
- Children with an EHCP who are new to Borough
- Children new to Borough who are not yet on a school roll
- Children who are accessing a current Short Break package
- Children who are educated Out of Area
- Children who have been permanently excluded and are in Day 6 provision
- Children who have been allocated a school via IYFAP but are not yet on a school roll
- Children who are defined as Missing in Education
- Children who are defined as Electively Home Educated

Children who require specialist AP provision (your school will have been made aware of these children already)

7. Early Help Pathway

For those children and young people on the Early Help Pathway, it will be the lead professional for the family that undertakes the welfare call to the family.

Staff in schools who are lead professional for a family will be contacted by their Early Help Coordinator to ensure that all children who are either receiving single or multi-agency support are receiving the correct level of support.

For those children on a school role open to Early Help but the Lead Professional is not a member of school staff, the school should also make a welfare call in line with their school policy.

Please note: that while schools may be recording these contacts on their school records, if a child is open to Early Help, any contact should also be recorded on EHM.

8. Mental health

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

Where they are providing for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, schools and colleges should ensure appropriate support is in place for them. Our guidance on mental health and behaviour in schools (which may also be useful for colleges) sets out how mental health issues can bring about changes in a young person's behaviour or

emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, and that can be an indication of an underlying problem. Support for pupils and students in the current circumstances can include existing provision in the school (although this may be delivered in different ways, for example over the phone) or from specialist staff or support services.

- EMMAUS team providing staff, student and parents additional support to support their mental health, these are available on Social media, via email and on the School website.
- Services such as Hallam Care Services and Me In Mind are available to provide support to pupils.
- School staff are on hand to provide someone to talk to and offer support either via phone or by email.

9. Allegations Against Members of Staff

Actions for allegations against members of staff and contacting the LADO remain the same as in the Schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy:

<https://www.mcauley.org.uk/index.php/policies-information>

<p>The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is:</p> <p>Monday, Tuesday & Thursday – CAROLINE TANNER Wednesday & Friday – HELEN COOPER</p> <p>Conference Chairs will deputise where required.</p> <p>E mail LADO <LADO@dcstrust.co.uk</p> <p>Contact Details:01302 737748</p> <p>For low level LADO enquiries</p> <p>Low level LADO enquiries, as per your LA safeguarding procedures please contact Sarah Stokoe / Gill Whiteman / Dana Kelly</p>	<p>Schools must only use the LADO email LADO@dcstrust.co.uk address, and NOT Jim Foy’s own due to him being away please. The LADO inbox is the only reliable line of communication during this time for incidents meeting threshold.</p> <p>Schools must follow local DSCP/DCSTrust procedures. Please read the criteria before completing the LADO referral form. If your allegation is significant please call LADO without delay and then follow up with a completed referral.</p> <p>See https://dscp.org.uk/professionals/allegations-against-people-who-work-children</p>
--	--

10. Prevent Update

Due to the evolving position with the Coronavirus pandemic, below is an update in relation to the current working practices of the Prevent team in line with those across our region. Senior Officers have agreed the following working practices until further notice:

1. The Prevent team will continue to contribute to all critical Prevent based meetings (i.e. CONTEST / Channel / MAPPA) on a virtual basis - where they are still arranged to take place;
2. There will be no face-to-face visits with Prevent subjects, families or professionals by CTPNE Prevent staff, **unless** a full risk assessment has taken place and there is an absolute necessity to visit - based on the operational risk posed vs public health advice on social distancing. In which case the correct and most appropriate resources will be tasked;
3. Prevent staff where possible are working remotely in line with government advice -
 - a. Ensuring all cases are reviewed, and re-assessed for potential risk under the current circumstances;
 - b. Ensuring an appropriate contact plan is set up for all subjects / families / professionals – thus ensuring subjects and families have a contact point within our team and / or can obtain appropriate support if required.

Our ability to review and assess new referrals will NOT be affected at this time

Any partner who identifies a person they consider is 'vulnerable to being drawn in to terrorism' should be referred for Prevent assessment via Prevent_Inbox@southyorks.pnn.police.uk – this remains unaffected and will continue to be monitored Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm. Outside these hours please contact 101 or 999 in the case of an emergency.

As the situation evolves over the coming weeks, our resilience to conduct Prevent Case Management activity may understandably change - depending on demand, staff resilience and other priorities arising across the CT policing landscape.