



Keeping Children Safe during the Covid-19 outbreak

The principles in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) continue to apply and all staff should be doing what they reasonably can to keep children safe. While the majority of children will not be physically attending the school, it is important that all staff who continue to interact with children (particularly online) look out for signs that a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should continue to be dealt with in line with the Child Protection policy. Where appropriate, referrals will continue to be made to Children's Services and, if necessary, the police. Whilst acknowledging the pressures staff are under, it remains essential that, as far as possible, school continues to be a safe place or at the very least, a safe point of contact for pupils.

The best interests of children must always continue to come first and all members of staff should ensure that if there is a safeguarding concern that they should act immediately. Concerns should be raised with Graeme Roach (DSL), Anne Hoskins (Deputy DSL), Jo- Anne Hoarty (Headteacher) or Ruth Holmwood (Senior Assistant Headteacher). During school hours a member of the Leadership Group will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding for pupils on site but they will have contact with the DSL or Deputy DSL.

If, due to current circumstances, staff are unable to contact any of the above a referral should be made direct to the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) calling 01908 253169 or 253170. You can also email children@milton-keynes.gov.uk. If such a course of action is necessary it is important that the Graeme Roach, Anne Hoskins, Jo-Anne Hoarty or Ruth Holmwood are informed as soon as is possible as follow up action would be necessary.

Where staff have concerns about a staff member who may pose a safeguarding risk to children they should continue to follow the procedures outlined in their Safeguarding training and in the Safeguarding policy.

Pupils on school site

School is currently open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. We ask that parents contact school if they wish to take advantage of this provision. Contact should be made with Mrs Hoarty at jo-anne.hoarty@st-pauls.org.uk. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with EHC plans. Other individual pupils may be added to this category due to the School's ongoing awareness of pupils and the challenges they may experience outside of school during this difficult time. Information on those listed as critical workers can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision.

Pupils working online

Staff need to consider the safety of pupils working online. The starting point for online teaching are the same principles of St Paul's staff behaviour policy (Code of conduct), the Acceptable Use of ICT Policy and the relevant sections of the Safeguarding Policy regarding safe working practice. Parents and carers will be made aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and who from the school their child may be interacting with online.

Staff should at all times ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Itslearning online safety measures

To ensure pupils cannot message others inappropriate content, pupil-to-pupil messaging has been suspended. This now means that for pupils to talk to each other on the platform a member of staff has to initiate a conversation and be a part of it so there is supervision. Pupils will still be able to report messages that they consider inappropriate within itslearning where necessary. Pupils should not attempt to visit websites that might be considered inappropriate and are advised that sites visited are monitored in school. While itslearning does have measures in place for safe guarding on the platform itself, we strongly advise parents to check that their own parental controls are in place. A guide on how to setup parental control with some of the more popular Internet Service Providers can be found at: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-your-home-internet-provider>. We ask that parents reinforce the importance of their children being safe online. Parents can find the ICT Acceptable Use policy on the school website which will further support their conversations with their children.

Pupils can report concerns directly with school, but there are also a number of age appropriate practical support groups available to them. These include...

- **Childline** - for support
- **UK Safer Internet Centre** - to report and remove harmful online content
- **CEOP** - for advice on making a report about online abuse

If parents and carers choose to supplement the online learning provided by the school with support from online companies or individual private tutors, we would emphasise the importance of securing such support from a reputable organisation or individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children.

Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- **Internet matters** - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- **London Grid for Learning** - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- **Net-aware** - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- **Parent info** - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- **Thinkuknow** - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- **UK Safer Internet Centre** - advice for parents and carers

The most recent guidance on keeping children safe online during cv-19 published 14th April 2020 can be found at...

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online>

Staff moving between schools

It is possible that staff may be required to move to another school on a temporary basis in response to COVID-19. While it is the responsibility of the receiving school to judge, on a case-by-case basis, the level of safeguarding induction required, we would expect staff to be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements. Where staff have any Safeguarding concerns then these should be reported to the DSL of the school they are attending. We ask that staff who do raise concerns at another school also inform the DSL at St Paul's as soon as is possible.

Receiving Staff from other schools

Staff arriving at St Paul's from other establishments will be given a copy of the St Paul's Child Protection policy and made aware of local processes and confirmation of the DSL arrangements in place. School will also seek confirmation from the current employer that their member of staff sent to work at St Paul's has a current DBS is in place.

Children moving schools

Where pupils are asked to attend another school on a short term basis, St Paul's will do whatever reasonable to provide the receiving institution with relevant welfare and child protection information. Where children are vulnerable, the receiving institution will be made aware of the reason the child is vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them. As a minimum the receiving institution should, as appropriate, have access to...

- An EHC plan,
- Child in need plan,
- child protection plan
- A Personal Education Plan (Looked After Children)

Where relevant, the receiving school should also be given the contact details of a child's social worker. For Looked after Children, any change in school should be led and managed by the Virtual School Headteacher with responsibility for the child.

Information will be shared, ideally before a child arrives at another school. Where this is not possible it will be addressed as is reasonably practicable. Any exchanges of information should be at DSL (or deputy) level, and likewise between special educational needs co-ordinators/named individual with oversight of SEN provision for children with EHC plans. However, due to current circumstances, this may not always be possible. Where this is the case, senior leaders will take responsibility to ensure the necessary information is given.

Mental health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances due to Covid-19, can seriously affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. It is likely that some pupils and parents will not only become distressed by the general deteriorating situation but also on how this may be impacting on them personally in their own families. The current Lockdown will in some instances also have an impact on mental health. The implications on families suffering bereavement, being restricted in their movements with limited space and resources, and experiencing possible loss of income should not be underestimated. Such circumstances potentially not only increase the

likelihood that children and parents may need to access appropriate support through safeguarding and hence the importance of remaining vigilant.

Staff should be aware of the demands and challenges that the current situation will have on pupils and their families in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. It should also be noted that this will be a changing situation and the child we know in school may not still have the same disposition with what is currently happening around them. Where staff have concerns this should be raised as a safeguarding incident.

While school wished to provide appropriate learning opportunities during this difficult time, we also accept that there will be circumstances where a child will not be able to access its learning. School will continue to send out reminders to parents regarding accessing this resource and any other updates necessary as the present situation develops. School aims to provide each child with enough work to occupy them for the equivalent teaching time of a school day. Parents are asked to discuss school work with their children regularly and where there are concerns they should contact school.

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