



## **COVID-19 Safeguarding Policy Addendum**

**March 2020**

### **Introduction:**

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open to provide childcare only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response and for vulnerable children who cannot be safely cared for at home.

As a result of the school closures, we are required to provide additional information concerning our safeguarding arrangements. This document should be considered alongside the school's Safeguarding Policy which is posted on Holy Family Catholic Primary School website.

The principles of safeguarding remain unchanged and these arrangements continue to reflect the requirements set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The school's system for reporting concerns remain unchanged.

### **1. Designated Safeguarding Leads**

The school will endeavour to ensure the Designated Safeguarding Lead is present for all days when the school is open to children of Key Workers and vulnerable pupils. Should this not be possible (eg.as a result of illness), the DSL will ask Assisi Catholic Trust to nominate another Academy DSL to provide support as necessary.

#### **The current Designated Safeguarding Lead for our school is:**

MRS NOREEN HURLEY (Interim Acting Headteacher)

### **2. Supervision**

Numbers of pupils attending are expected to remain low, although these may fluctuate as time goes by. The Interim Acting Headteacher will produce a weekly timetable so that adequate staff are on site every day to provide safe supervision at all times. Parents are asked to book places via [senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk) to ensure staff to pupil ratios numbers are appropriate to maximise safety.

### **3. Vulnerable Pupils**

The school is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils and will retain a responsibility for all vulnerable children during the closure period.

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and children with education, health and care (EHC) plans. 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.

Regular contact will be maintained with families of all vulnerable pupils by their class teachers and/or the SENCo/Interim Acting Headteacher. Any concerns will be managed in the normal ways following school policy. The school counsellor will be available to speak to / meet with any vulnerable pupils experiencing high anxiety.

### ***Looked After Children***

The school will liaise with Foster Carers and Social Care regarding provision for these children during the closure period. The school will endeavour to provide consistency of staffing for pupils, recognising the emotional needs and the raised levels of anxiety which may be experienced.

### ***Children under Special Guardianship & Previously Looked After Children***

Regular contact will be maintained with these families by the class teachers and /or SENCO. Any concerns will be managed in the normal ways.

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

### ***Free School Meals***

The school will make use of the DfE voucher scheme to ensure that all families entitled to FSM are able to access this service.

## **4. Online activity**

We recognise that school is a protective factor for children and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

It is recognised that during this period, pupils will probably be spending significantly more time online. The school recognises that this increases the potential risks for pupils to be engaged in inappropriate/unsafe communication/activity. It falls to the supervising adults in school and at home to monitor closely the online activity and reinforce expectations and safeguards to all children.

Whilst our school has appropriate filtering systems in place, it is acknowledged that this may not be the case in family homes. The school will include regular reminders to parents via the weekly newsletter to ensure this remains a high priority. Additionally, parents will be provided with hyperlinks to sites where support can be accessed to ensure awareness of current risks and threats to pupils' online access. The school recognises that risks associated with Peer on Peer abuse are likely to take the form of online abuse. Such incidents will continue to be dealt with in line with KCSiE Section 5.

If teachers wish to deliver a virtual lesson e.g through Class Dojo, especially where webcams are involved, the live class MUST be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed. Language must always be professional and appropriate and any computers used should be set up in appropriate areas eg not a bedroom.

## **5. Attendance**

At this time, most pupils remain at home in line with government guidelines. Attendance at school is recorded daily and reported to the Department for Education in line with current guidance. Places at school for the children of Key Workers and vulnerable pupils are booked in advance, enabling the school to follow up in a timely way if a child fails to arrive as expected.

## **6. Hygiene**

The school will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to closely follow the advice from Public Health England regarding hand washing and scrupulous hygiene to limit the risk of spread of COVID19. Sanitising gel, wipes and cleaning sprays are used frequently. Staff ensure pupils attending school wash their hands regularly including immediately on entering the school and before they leave the premises.