



**Annex to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
COVID-19 Arrangements**

Introduction

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible and where it was safer to do so to slow the spread of Covid-19. On 20th May 2020, the Department for Education issued new guidelines for the phased return. From 1st June, there was a phased return. From September, all children are expected to be back in school, but some may be self-isolating and we must also be prepared for another lockdown, so this annex will continue to be relevant.

The School has drawn up a Framework for Return (with linked risk assessments) and also a Pastoral Return strategy, which can be read separately.

The phased return has been carefully planned with reference to Department for Education guidance:

- [Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from June 2020](#)
- [Planning guide for primary schools](#)
- [Implementing Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings](#)
- [Covid-19 Safeguarding in Schools, Colleges and Other Providers](#)

This revised addendum of the St John's College School Safeguarding and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements during this time to protect all children, whether attending school or remaining at home, from harm and abuse. It should be read in conjunction with the School's [Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy](#).

St John's is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students and will ensure compliance with [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (KCSIE), which remains in force throughout the response to coronavirus. The following safeguarding principles remain unchanged:

- The best interests of children must always continue to come first;
- If anyone in school has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act and act immediately;
- A Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy will be on site;
- It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the School and/or gain access to children;
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online.

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Althea Pipe	01223 272729	apipe@sjcs.co.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Lisa Bedford	01223 272718	lbedford@sjcs.co.uk
	Steve Glitherow	01223 327007 (or 07885 202086)	sglitherow@sjcs.co.uk
Headteacher	Neil Chippington	01223 272700	nchippington@sjcs.co.uk
Chair of Governors	Ann Louise Kinmonth	01223 338600	alk25@medschl.cam.ac.uk
Governor for Welfare	Susan Wessels	01728 727205	reception@framlinghamcollege.co.uk
Designated Teacher – Looked After Children	Althea Pipe	01223 272729	apipe@sjcs.co.uk

Cambridge and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board:

<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/home/covid-19/>

Supporting children in school

The School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

The School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement protective measures including social distancing: [implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#).

The School will continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

The School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. We recognise that for some children the return to school after an extended period of time at home will be challenging and staff will support children to adjust to the necessary changes to the school environment and routines. Supporting pupil wellbeing will be at the forefront of our approach and school staff will seek to provide reassurance to children as we manage the transition period. Staff will talk to the children about the changes to the school day in an age appropriate manner, acknowledge and listen to children's anxieties and support them to understand the altered routines (see Pastoral Return Strategy).

The School recognises that the current circumstances may adversely affect the mental health of children and their parents. School staff have been briefed to look out for changes in behaviour or in a child's emotional state, which could range from being excessively clingy, fearful, withdrawn or aggressive as more children return to school. As always, the wellbeing of children is at the heart of our work, and school staff will seek to provide appropriate support for children both in school and where required from specialist services.

The School recognises that for some children, home may not be a safe space and that there may be children who are relieved to return to school. School staff have been reminded of the need to respond sensitively to children's differing experiences during the period of school closure. School staff have been asked to be particularly vigilant as more children return to school, for signs and indicators that a child may have experienced abuse or neglect. School staff have been trained about how to handle a disclosure from a child, and understand that any safeguarding concerns, including those that relate to the period of school closure, must be referred immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputies) in the usual way.

Prior to children returning to school, parents and carers will be asked to ensure that all personal details held by the school such as emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available. At this time, parents and carers will also be asked to advise the School if there are any changes regarding the child's welfare, health and wellbeing that it would help the School to be made aware of. Where the School is aware of particular circumstances affecting a child or family, such as bereavement, a relationship breakdown, an incident of domestic violence, this will be shared with staff on a need-to-know basis so that children can be best supported.

Supporting children not in school

St John's is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and young people.

The School recognises that some children may be at home due to families self-isolating or in quarantine, or if we return to lockdown.

St John's 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. Teachers at St John's need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

Where the DSL has identified a child about whom there have been concerns but not currently open to social care, 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.

Details of this plan will be recorded, as should a record of all contact made.

St John's and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan.

This plan must be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

If we are unable to contact a child about whom there have been concerns after a reasonable number of attempts, we may need to seek further advice about safe and well checks.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Vulnerable children

All vulnerable children continue to be eligible to attend school full time should we return to lockdown. This applies regardless of whether their year group is able to return to school as part of the phased return and regardless of whether they were chosen to access school provision prior to the phased return.

Vulnerable children include those who:

- Are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1089, including children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and it is determined, following assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
- Have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued attendance. This might include children on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers and others at the School and local authority's discretion
- Are recognised by the School as vulnerable due to other circumstances, such as specific needs

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those about whom there have been concerns but not currently open to Social Care.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

St John's will continue to work with and support children's Social Workers to help protect vulnerable children where applicable. This includes working with and supporting children's Social Workers and the Local Authority Virtual School Head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this will be: Althea Pipe.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a Social Worker will attend an education setting, unless the child / household is shielding or clinically vulnerable. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the Social Worker and St John's will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. The School will work with Social Workers to agree with parents / carers whether the children in need should be attending school. The School will then follow up on any child that they were expecting to attend, who does not.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, St John's or the Social Worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

St John's will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, St John's will notify their Social Worker.

Attendance monitoring

St John's resumed taking attendance registers from 1 June and continue to complete the online Educational Setting Status from which gives the Department for Education daily updates on how many children and staff are attending: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>.

The School will continue to follow up with any parent / carer if they were expecting the child to attend and they subsequently do not attend school. Non-attendance will be followed up in line with the School's normal attendance protocols.

The School will continue to inform Children's Social Care if a child with a Social Worker does not attend school.

Designated Safeguarding Lead Arrangements

St John's has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and two Deputy DSLs.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Althea Pipe**

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: **Lisa Bedford and Steve Glitherow**.

We will endeavour to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not possible, a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone and email.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

It is important that all St John's staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, the staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to contact them.

The DSL will continue to engage with Social Workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which are being held remotely.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

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

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors: NAME. Ann Louise Kinmonth

Safeguarding Training and induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the Covid-19 virus. In the interim, Designated Safeguarding Leads continue to keep themselves up to date with safeguarding developments

through updates from the Education Safeguarding Team, accessing the Knowledge Hub and via the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board communications and website.

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.

The Local Authority Education Safeguarding Team is providing advice and guidance, where needed, to schools through a dedicated helpline.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). The DSL will 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 St John's, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction. Following training, they will be given a copy of the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, guidance on local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

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, St John'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 (2020) (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.

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

There is no requirement to obtain a new DBS check for returning staff who have continued to be employed but have not been working in regulated activity during partial school closures. If for any reason the school have concerns about an individual, new checks will be obtained in the usual way.

Where St John's are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 183 to 188 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

St John's 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 179 of KCSIE.

St John's 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, St John's will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Online safety in schools and colleges

St John's 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.

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 Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police.

School closures bring lots of challenges for both school staff and parents, and both are increasingly looking to the benefits of technology to continue delivering some form of learning experience for children.

As always, there are huge benefits to be gained from the appropriate use of technology, and accessing learning resources whilst at home is a great example of this. However, parents (and teachers) need to be aware of the potential risks that go along with this.

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

Children have been reminded of our online safety training. Children, parents and teachers have also been given additional guidance on safe use of Google Meets. In particular, they have been told that when using Google Meets:

- Wherever possible, sessions should not take place in bedrooms. Where there is no other option for a child but to work in their bedroom, the staff member should check that the bedroom door is open and that nothing personal can be seen.
- There should be no private and personal things visible in the background
- All participants should be appropriately dressed (any breach in this expectation should be reported to the DSL, recorded on 3Sys and the parent informed)
- Normal expectations of behaviour are in place
- If a child is behaving inappropriately, the teacher must explain to the child the behaviour that is inappropriate and close the child's Google Meet link down and inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately (who will follow the normal safeguarding procedures, including speaking to parents)
- the children are told to end a Google Meet if something makes them uncomfortable and to inform another adult
- Google automatically logs all Meet session times and attendees
- Parents should generally know a Google Meet session is taking place, unless there is a safeguarding concern or a child has a worry (staff will ask the children if the parent knows about the Meet); where a Google Meet session is not part of a timetabled lesson, the teacher will check with the child at the start of the session whether their parent knows about the Meet
- If a teacher finds themselves in a 1:1 situation with a child they should ask the child if they are happy for the Google Meet session to be recorded; if not, the video camera must be turned off (Note: Google Meet recordings made will be stored in the secure school Google drive and deleted by the end of the year)

Peer on Peer Abuse

St John's recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

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.

Concerns and actions must be recorded and appropriate referrals made.

Radicalisation

School staff have received training about Prevent. The School has a Prevent Lead (Althea Pipe). All school staff are aware of the need to treat concerns about radicalisation as safeguarding concerns, and immediately share them with their Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputies). DSLs continue to share concerns about radicalisation to partner agencies, including Channel Panel, which remain operational, in line with usual procedures.

The Department for Education has also published information here on [prevent management support for schools and colleges](#).

Children moving schools / new children at the School

As always, where children join our school from other settings we will seek confirmation from the DSL whether they have a Safeguarding File or SEN statement/EHCP. This file must be provided securely before the child begins at our school and a call made from our DSL or a deputy to the placing school's DSL to discuss how best to keep the child safe.

In some unusual circumstance this may not be possible. Information provided must include contact details for any appointed Social Worker and where relevant for the Virtual School Head.

Safeguarding information about children placed in our school will be recorded on our safeguarding system, will be securely copied to the placing school DSL and will be securely returned to the placing school on completion of the child's placement with us so there is a continuous safeguarding record for the child.

The DSL will undertake a risk assessment in respect of any new information received, considering how risks will be managed and which staff need to know about the information. This will be recorded on our safeguarding recording system.

This policy has been remotely approved by Governors on 29.5.20 and is available on the school website [here](#) or as a link on the public [Policies](#) page.