

COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection at St Patricks RC High School

Policy owner: Michael Connelly

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Date shared with staff:

Important contacts

ROLE/ORGANISATION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Executive Headteacher St Patrick's RC High School 56 New Lane Eccles M307JJ	Mr Patrick Murden	ep@cathcoll.net 0161 921 2300
Headteacher St Patrick's RC High School 56 New Lane Eccles M307JJ	Mrs Alison Byrne	alison.byrne2@salford.gov.uk 0161 921 2300
Designated Safeguarding lead (DSL) St Patrick's RC High School 56 New Lane Eccles M307JJ	Mr Michael Connelly	michael.connelly@salford.gov.uk 0161 921 2300
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) St Patrick's RC High School 56 New Lane Eccles M307JJ	Mr Dan Macafee	dan.macafee@salford.gov.uk 0161 921 2300

ROLE/ORGANISATION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Associate Pastoral Director St Patrick's RC High School 56 New Lane Eccles M307JJ	Mrs Linda Gardiner	linda.gardiner@salford.gov.uk 0161 921 2300
Local authority designated officer (LADO) Safeguarding Children and Quality Assurance Unit, Sutherland House, 303 Chorley Road, Swinton, M27 6AY	Emma Ford: Head of Safeguarding Salford	sscp@salford.gov.uk 0161 603 4350
Chair of governors St Patrick's RC High School 56 New Lane Eccles M307JJ	Ms Jackie Brooks	0161 921 2300
Lead Governor (Safeguarding) St Patrick's RC High School 56 New Lane Eccles M307JJ	Ms Rachel Jones	0161 921 2300

Prior to the school shut-down all pupils/parents were informed of two important safeguarding numbers. These were;

- **St Patricks RC High School Safeguarding number which Linda Gardiner (Associate Pastoral Director) is in possession of**

07936 552399

- **Childline**

0800 1111

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 St Patricks RC High School's Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in response to the COVID 19 school closure

2. Vulnerable children

The Department for Education's (DfE's) definition of 'vulnerable children' includes those who:

- Have a social worker, including children:
- With a child protection plan
- Looked after by the local authority
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

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

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability. Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Working with outside agencies

We will continue to update this addendum where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- Our 3 local safeguarding partners
- The local authority about children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need

St Patricks RC High School will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. 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: Mrs Linda Gardiner.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. 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 Patricks RC High School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, St Patricks RC High School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England. St Patricks RC High School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend St Patricks RC High School, including remotely, if needed.

3. Attendance monitoring

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

St Patricks RC High School and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school – St Patricks RC High School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. St Patricks RC High School will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care (at school) for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

To support the above, St Patricks RC High School will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, St Patricks RC High School will notify their social worker.

4. Designated Safeguarding Lead

St Patricks RC High School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL. Additionally we have an Associate Pastoral Director who has additional responsibility for Looked after Children (LAC)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Michael Connelly

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Dan Macafee

Associate Pastoral Director is: Linda Gardiner

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case, a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example when working from home.

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.

This might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, CPOMS and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school

It is important that all St Patricks RC High School staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). Each day, staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to speak to them.

The DSL will continue to engage/arrange for Linda Gardiner (Associate Pastoral Director) to liaise with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

5. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process, out-lined in the school Safeguarding Policy. They should contact the DSL or DDS by email and follow this up with an immediate phone call.

This concern will then be logged on CPOMS by authorised key Pastoral staff, which can be done remotely. Action, will be taken depending on the nature of the concern and consultation with "The Bridge" may be actioned with the possibility of a referral.

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 directly to the Headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally to the Headteacher and followed up with an email

Concerns around the Headteacher, should be directed to the Chair of Governors: Mrs Jackie Brookes via the school using the contact information on this addendum.

6. 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 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). 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 Patricks RC High 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 St Patricks RC High School Safeguarding and Child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

7. 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 Patricks RC High School 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 St Patricks RC High School 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.

St Patricks RC High 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.

St Patricks RC High 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 and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, St Patricks RC High School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

8. Online safety whilst working in school

St Patricks RC High 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.

9. Children and online safety away from school

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.

St Patricks RC High School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- No 1:1s, groups only
- 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; and the background should be blurred.
- The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including that of any family members in the background.
- Staff must only use platforms that have been authorised to be used by the DSL
- Staff should record, the length, time, date and attendance of any sessions held and submit these to the DSL by email on a word document

10. Supporting children not in school

St Patricks RC High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

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. A record of contact will be made with parents/careers and pupils.

The communication plans can include; remote contact and/or phone contact

Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

St Patricks RC High 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 on its website, social media pages and via MY ED.

St Patricks RC High 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. Teachers at St Patricks RC High School need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.

St Patricks RC High School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

11. Supporting children in school

St Patricks RC High School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. St Patricks RC High School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.

The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

St Patricks RC High 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.

St Patricks RC High School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

At all times whilst pupils are in school, St Patricks will ensure that there is a trained First Aider on site. Additionally, in the event of a fire evacuation, pupils on site and staff will have been informed prior to attending what to do in the event of an evacuation.

12. Peer on Peer Abuse

St Patricks RC High School 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 the school's 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 and will be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

12. Mental health

Where possible, we will continue to offer support for pupil mental health for all pupils. Each week parents will receive a Mental Health "snippet" via MYED.

The school utilises councilors from 42nd Street and Caritas during normal school operations. During the lockdown the school will endeavor to work with these organisations to try and ensure pupils (who have weekly counselling sessions) are supported. However, this cannot be guaranteed due to the restrictions in place due to the COVID 19 lockdown and the impact on normal working practices

We will also signpost all pupils, parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

This addendum will be shared with all staff via email.