



COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

(Safeguarding Policy
Addendum)

Author: DP Quality of Education
Date adopted by Governors/Academy:

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew Chapter 17, Verse 20



Date of last review/amendment: February 2021

Date of next review: September 2021

Contents

1. Context.....2

2 .Key contacts2

3. Vulnerable children.....3

4. Attendance monitoring.....4

5. Designated Safeguarding Lead.....4

6. Reporting a concern.....5

7. Safeguarding Training and induction5

8. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff6

9. Online safety in schools and colleges7

10. Children and online safety away from school and college7

11. Supporting children not in school.....8

12. Supporting children in school8

13. Peer on Peer Abuse.....9

1. Context

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools have been 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 the All Saints Academy Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the areas outlined in the contents table.

2 . Key contacts

Role	Name	Number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Kate Searle	01582 619700	ksearle@asadunstable.org
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Hannah Buckledee	01582 619700	hbuckledee@asadunstable.org
Principal	Liz Furber	01582 619700	lfurber@asadunstable.org
Chair of Governors	David Fraser	01582 619700	dfraser@asadunstable.org

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew Chapter 17, Verse 20

3. Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. 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 or college 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.

All Saints Academy 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: Kate Searle.

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 All Saints Academy will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID-19, All Saints Academy or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

All Saints Academy will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew Chapter 17, Verse 20

4. 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.

All Saints Academy and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school and school will then follow up on any student they were expecting to attend. All Saints Academy will also follow up with any parent/carer who has arranged for their child to attend and subsequently does not attend.

In order to ensure students do not fall behind academically, All Saints Academy will be monitoring the attendance and engagement of students in their remote learning, with contact made home where students are not engaged in their online learning.

To support the above, All Saints Academy when communicating with parents/carers and carers will 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, All Saints Academy will notify their social worker if relevant.

5. Designated Safeguarding Lead

All Saints Academy has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Kate Searle

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Hannah Buckledee

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 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 or college.

It is important that all All Saints Academy staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to contact them.

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew Chapter 17, Verse 20



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

6. Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via CPOMS, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Principal. This will ensure that the concern is received.

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 must report the concern to the DSL and the Principal immediately.

Concerns around the Principal should be directed to the Chair of Governors:
David Fraser.

7. 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 acknowledged reading and understanding Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020). All school staff took part in refresher training in January 2021.

The DSL should 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 All Saints Academy 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:-

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew Chapter 17, Verse 20

- 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.

This can be covered by a letter or email from the Principal or DSL.

Either in advance or upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting’s child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

8. 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, we 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.

Where All Saints Academy are utilising volunteers, we will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

All Saints Academy 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 in KCSIE.

All Saints Academy will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per 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, All

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew Chapter 17, Verse 20

Saints Academy will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in KCSIE.

9. Online safety in schools and colleges

All Saints Academy 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.

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

All Saints Academy 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:

- 1:1 video calls will be set up only to support some of our SEND students and only with permission from the parents/carers and the Principal.
- Staff and students must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Students in Years 7-11 should not use their cameras during virtual lessons.
- Any computers used with a camera enabled should be located in an appropriate area, for example, not in private/ personal space such as a bedroom. Some platforms have a facility that allows the background to be blurred or an anonymised background to be selected – this should be activated where possible (this may depend on the equipment in use and whether a high level graphics chip is installed).
- The live class should be recorded so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed.
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew Chapter 17, Verse 20



11. Supporting children not in school

All Saints Academy 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.

Details of this plan must be recorded on CPOMS, as should a record of any contact that has been made.

The communication plans can include school email address contact, phone contact, home visits if deemed appropriate and all communication must be recorded on CPOMS.

All Saints Academy and its DSL will monitor closely 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 and social media pages.

All Saints Academy recognises that school is a protective factor for children and young people, and the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of students and their parents/carers. Teachers need to be aware of this in setting expectations of students' work where they are at home.

12. Supporting children in school

All Saints Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

All Saints Academy will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and achieve. The Principal will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

All Saints Academy 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.

All Saints Academy 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..

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew Chapter 17, Verse 20



13. Peer on Peer Abuse

All Saints Academy 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 KCSIE and of those outlined within of the Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multiagency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on CPOMS and appropriate referrals made.

Revised KSE February 2021