



## **COVID-19 school closure arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection**

<b>Document Information</b>			
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<b>Signature (FGB)</b>		<b>Signature (Head)</b>	P Cuncarr

## 1. Context

From 20<sup>th</sup> 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 the St John and St James C of E Primary School Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

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## Key contacts

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact number</b>	<b>Email</b>
Designated Safeguarding Lead/ HT	Patricia Cuncarr	07894106888	headteacher@stjohnandjames.enfield.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Jo Nagle	07961843160	<a href="mailto:jnagle@stjohnandjames.enfield.sch.uk">jnagle@stjohnandjames.enfield.sch.uk</a>
	Jessica Williams	07517999028	<a href="mailto:jwilliams@stjohnandjames.enfield.sch.uk">jwilliams@stjohnandjames.enfield.sch.uk</a>
Chair of Governors	Carmel Fox	07920065198	<a href="mailto:carmel@foxlangan.co.uk">carmel@foxlangan.co.uk</a>

## 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 deputies) 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.

St John and St James 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 Jo Nagle.

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 John and St James will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

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

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

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

To support the above, St John and St James 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, the school will notify their social worker.

## **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

St John and St James C of E Primary School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Patricia Cuncarr

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Jo Nagle & Jessica Williams

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 or college.

All staff and volunteers will have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). All staff will be made aware of who the DSL or Deputy DSL's are and how to speak to them.

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

## **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 My Concern, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their My Concern from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads or the Headteacher. This will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff have been 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 immediately. 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: Carmel Fox.