

Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy

Addendum December 2020

Schools and Education Settings - The safeguarding arrangements for remote Learning and Summary of any key COVID-19 Mitigation Planning, safeguarding and child protection changes

Name of school/college: The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy

Addendum approved by:

Name	Role	Date
Kevin Cafferkey	Chair of Governors	11.2.21
Date addendum published by the setting and made available on the website		11.2.21

Addendum review dates and changes

Review date	By whom	Summary of changes made	Date implemented
10.3.21	LGB		

This addendum supports The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy's current child protection and safeguarding policy, 2020/21. It is part of a series of additional templates that have been issued in 2020 in line with COVID-19 mitigation planning and responses to safeguarding arrangements:

- April 2020, Addendum, Summary of any key COVID-19 Mitigation Planning, Safeguarding and Child Protection changes;
- June 2020, Annex A, The Safeguarding arrangements for the wider Opening of Education Settings to Children from June 1st.

This addendum is new information Schools/Colleges need to address to support the Safeguarding arrangements in their School/College to cover for example, recent guidance issued by the Government on Remote Learning and on Local Safeguarding Arrangements as the pandemic continues.

This Addendum also reflects any updated advice from Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and from Children's Social Care, Reporting Mechanisms, and updated and available support services.

Key information is found here:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schoolsportal/safeguarding/covid-19-information>

All leaders and including Governors will ensure that they will also keep up to date with changing National and Local arrangements:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://schoolsnet.Nottinghamshireshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/coronavirus-information.aspx>

1. Vulnerable Children/reporting concerns

We will help identify vulnerable children and especially those children who continue not to be in school and use the available services, support and referring in arrangements, with particular reference to:

- Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and from Children's Social Care, Reporting Mechanisms
- The locality Early Help Team (Nottinghamshire): (0115 8041248)
www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/service
- Community Health Advisors (Mental Health and Wellbeing):
<https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/camhs>

2. Maintaining contact

The school has adopted approaches to maintaining contact with children and their families who are not in school, in managing a balance of reaching out to children and families when in school and to those not in school, through acting to:

- Ensure consistency in the approach to remote learning, through use of quality online and offline resources and teaching videos, for all pupils (including those with SEND) who are not present in school
- Provide clear expectations to members of the school community with regards to the delivery of high quality, interactive remote learning, and where possible, live online teaching

- Support the continuous delivery of the school curriculum, as well as motivation for learning,
- PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and Well-Being, as well as helping parents when children are learning from home
- Consider continued education for staff and parents (e.g. CPD, Supervision and Meet the Teacher)
- Support effective communication between the school and families, including a focus on attendance
- Review the actions/procedures we take to try and increase attendance for any vulnerable children who have been identified who are not in school – and this includes using remote learning, and maintaining contact with these children and families. Presently, these actions/procedures are:

Children's attendance is registered each day. Each teacher completes the Notts LA Dinner Register for their class (this informs the school office who completes the daily DfE register which comprises pupils in school, whilst also confirming that we provide the appropriate hours of Home Learning – as well as providing information regarding the way we provide for pupils in receipt of Free School Meals).

Each teacher uses a spreadsheet to record attendance/non-attendance. In addition, each teacher keeps a handwritten class log of pupils in-school and those who are present for the live-learning sessions (they take a register for each Live-Learning session). This aids in chasing up non-attenders – and checking with TAs who have their own groups of pupils to add to the registers.

All children who are part of a Child in Need Plan; who have social worker involvement; an EHCP and/or are considered High level SEN – are offered places in school. These places are currently being taken up as full or partial days each week.

Whilst accessing school, communication continues through the normal channels for these pupils, via Dojo, Teacher and TAs providing information.

As per the home school learning policy:

Children are registered at Daily Zoom sessions

These sessions provide an opportunity to oversee that all pupils are safeguarded, while they are not physically attending school – and to ensure they can continue their learning.

If there is a concern around the level of engagement of a pupil/s, are contacted by the Classteacher immediately after the lesson to ascertain the reason. If unsuccessful, then a phone call is made – in the majority of occasions, there is a valid reason and the pupil is back learning at the next possible opportunity.

Children who have experienced limited or no access to IT equipment have been supported and supplied with Trust and Government funded Chromebooks.

Surveys have been sent out to parents and children for feedback to their experiences on working on line, these were very in their responses.

Pupils who do not attend a Zoom/Microsoft Teams session after one week receive daily phone calls instead; to ensure they are safe and continuing with their learning.

Pupils who are considered vulnerable receive additional phone calls from a teacher and/or TA and/or external agency. Communication frequency varies due to individual risk assessments. All communication with vulnerable pupils is logged onto CPOMS.

Teacher's notify DSL and Family Liaison Lead if they do not receive an appropriate response (or indeed no response at all) as concerns are raised sometimes from the information obtained from such communication.

DSL/SLT monitor CPOMS logs. As part of this team the Family Liaison will contact the parents/carers of the families concerned to ascertain their situation and reason for absence. To resolve concerns the Family Liaison:

- works with the teacher/TA,
- liaises with SENCO
- engages with outside agency support e.g. Social worker or Nottinghamshire Local Authority Schools and Family Support Service (SFSS).

Any complaints or concerns shared by parents or pupils are reported to a member of SLT; for any safeguarding concerns, referred immediately to the DSL.

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Deputy) Arrangements

Lead DSL is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and working from home – a key role on the ground is to keep abreast of identified vulnerable families through regular phone calls to them and agencies/professionals working to support them (e.g. social care workers).

All such correspondence - including all contact with school staff via Class Dojo and emails, is logged onto CPOMS. Lead DSL records all electronic meetings carried out in Teams and Zoom meetings when working with professionals and external bodies to support our families (e.g. CIN meetings, MAM and SEND meetings and school staff and SLT meetings).

In addition to this provision, additional arrangements include:

- 2 DSL are in school to cover day to day situations
- We are training our SENCO as an additional DSL to ensure provision for vulnerable families
- We receive memo updates from Nottinghamshire safeguarding partnership
- Family Liaison work with those vulnerable children including those who have a social worker
- SENCO liaison support for those children who have an EHCP or high-level needs
- Uptake of Keyworker places has been high and has had an impact on the response to request low or non-attendance from those children who are considered in vulnerable families. There has consequently, been an additional effort from all staff to keep them in school.

- All teachers are now taking some sessions to work at home where they continue to carry out zoom class sessions (ensuring protocol and safeguarding procedures as per policy).

4. Children with a Social Worker

We expect that our vulnerable children who have a social worker and children with an EHCP will attend our school so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at severe risk.

Where a parent/carer does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, we will agree with the Social Worker who will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent and wherever possible encourage attendance. This will include children with EHCP plans and we will liaise with the SEND Team. Any discussions will be communicated to the Social Worker.

If we must close our provision and we have children attending with a Social Worker, we will liaise with other provision in our area to see if they are open and if the child/ren can attend. We will then update the Social Worker and use contingency arrangements for information sharing and recording whilst the child is in the alternative setting.

We will ensure where possible that we have joint discussions with the Social Worker around reasons for any non-attendance and the risk this poses to the safeguarding and welfare of the child. Through this discussion we can plan any next steps to try and ensure the welfare of the child.

5. Home Educated Children

When parents/carers are considering Home Education and or have taken a decision to remove the child from our roll, we encourage an open line of communication and will arrange a discussion with the family. In doing this we will inform them of their legal duties and that they will be expected to provide a full-time suitable education. We will also explain that as part of the procedure for wanting to pursue Home Education, we will notify the Local Authority of their decision and the Local Authority will need to make further enquiries directly with them.

If this decision relates to COVID-19 and there are concerns about the physical or mental health of the child or other family member, we will try and continue to offer reassurances about the measures we have taken to protect their health and wellbeing.

The DfE has published advice for parents/carers considering Elective Home Education (EHE). It sets out clearly, the implications of withdrawing children from school for the purposes of home education. We will in our discussion with parents/carers hand out information and provide this link where the option of EHE is explored:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education>

We will also provide additional information found here:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/home-education/elective-home-education>

6. Remote Learning

The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy is operating a mixture of In-School and Home Learning. If any of our children and their families need to self-isolate, for example, we will need to make provision to teach them remotely. In teaching face to face or in a virtual classroom it is important that we take steps to ensure children are protected.

Safeguarding and Child Protection remains as important in this environment as anywhere else, and our School/College will apply the School's Safeguarding Guidance to Remote Learning, just as they would to classroom working. Staff who become aware of any Child Protection concerns will continue to follow the school's/college's safeguarding procedures and the local Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire Children's Safeguarding Procedures.

When staff work remotely, we will ensure that the School's/College's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is adhered to, and the Managing Allegations Against Staff, Carers and Volunteers policy is followed.

Updated National Guidance provided by the DfE can be found on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19#virtual-lessons-and-live-streaming>

7. Monitoring Arrangements

This addendum will be reviewed and updated as Guidance from the Local Safeguarding Partners, other relevant agencies or DfE is received, and as a minimum (every 4 school term weeks) by (Anthony Harrison and Kevin Cafferkey).

At every review, it will be read and approved by the full governing board.

Appendix 1.

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Safeguarding our Children at a Time of Significant Demand

What Do We Know?

Between March and September 2020, many children and young people were not seen in their day care or school settings. We know that the lived experiences of children, young people and their families throughout the lockdown period may have been very different to normal; greater contact with family members and household pressures such as employment, financial concerns, home schooling and health, potentially contributing to an increase in domestic abuse and other concerns such as parental mental health and substance abuse and family breakdown. Children and young people are also likely to have had increased access to the internet, prompting concerns about an increase in online abuse and exploitation.

As children and young people begin to return to day care or school settings there is an understandable anxiety that significant concerns may come to light about their experiences over the last six months, and there is a need to ensure that children and families are able to access the appropriate level of help for their needs.

The messages from the data we have collected and analysed are clear; demand on all services will increase and all services must identify how they will respond, both individually and in coordination with other agencies

Responding to Emerging Concerns – Essential Questions to Ask

Circumstances for children and young people can be complex. Key to decision making will be your analysis of what you know and whether any new information which has been shared by the child, young person or about them raises specific concerns about abuse or neglect.

- Have you reviewed the threshold document and clarified all the information available to you, from your records and from your work with other agencies, to decide how serious the situation is for the child or young person?
- In all possible cases, have you discussed your concerns with the designated or named safeguarding lead in your organisation? This is an essential chance to reflect on what has been learnt and whether early help may be needed, or the situation is so serious that urgent action is required.
- If the situation does not require a referral to social care, what other services are available which could provide early and appropriate support?
- What action can/should you/your agency take which is appropriate to the identified needs of the child and family, by reference to the Threshold Guidance (e.g. Early Help, direct action from your agency or working alongside another agency).

You can also use the specific sections of the DDSCP Safeguarding Children Procedures to guide you through the process of making a referral.

Next Steps for Designated or Named Safeguarding Leads in all Agencies

Are you clear on:

- Your organisation's internal procedures for safeguarding children and young people? Do these meet the current situation and availability of support/advice services?
- Where to get help with Early Help assessments and what tools are available to inform your assessment (such as the Graded Care Profile)?
- Where to go for advice on supporting children and young people with specific issues such as concerns around mental health or exploitation?
- All the information available to you, from your records and from your work with other agencies and consideration of the threshold document? Have you reached a conclusion based on all this information to decide how serious the situation is, and that it meets the criteria for a referral?

Further information on numerous topics is available to help you on the Nottinghamshire County Council Website.

Professionals with a safeguarding concern - Nottinghamshire

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is the single point of contact for all professionals to report safeguarding concerns.

You can contact the MASH team in one of the following ways:

- Telephone: 0300 500 80 90
- Fax: 01623 483295
- Email: mash.safeguarding@secure.nottsccl.gov.uk
- Online form: [concerned about a child](#)

Post:

MASH

Mercury House

Little Oak Drive

Sherwood Business Park

Annesley

Nottinghamshire

NG15 0DR.

Opening hours:

Monday to Thursday - 8.30am to 5pm;

Friday - 8.30am - 4.30pm.

In an emergency outside of these hours, contact the Emergency Duty Team on 0300 456 4546. See Nottinghamshire County Council website for further information.

Useful Contacts: Children's Social Care

Area Referrals/front door Professional Advice

Nottinghamshire	0300 500 80 90 (MASH)
Derbyshire	01629 533190 (Starting Point)
Online referral	01629 535353 (8am – 6pm)
Nottinghamshire	01332 641172 (First Response)
Online referral	07812 300329 (10am – 4pm)

Early Help:

Area	Telephone number
Nottinghamshire	0115 8041248
High Peak & Dales	01629 531232 (Glossop)
	01629 533502 (Buxton)
North East & Bolsover	01629 533623 or 01629 537398
Chesterfield	01629 533557
Amber Valley	01629 533640 or 01629 533212
Erewash	01629 537820 or 01629 531576
South Derbyshire & Dales	01629 532617

CAMHS Telephone number

Nottinghamshire	0115 969 1300
Chesterfield and North Derbyshire	01246 514412
High Peak and Derbyshire Dales	01298 72445
CAHMS Derby and South Derbyshire	0300 7900264