

# **Covid-19 Addendum to Safeguarding Policy**

## **St Francis' Catholic Primary School**

St. Francis'  
Catholic Primary



Approved by FGB on:

Committee Responsible:

Next review due by:

**Covid-19 Addendum to Safeguarding Policy**  
**St Francis School Nailsea**  
**Update: Schools' Wider Re-Opening**

## **Principles**

As more children return to school, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available (not necessarily on site)
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- staff should continue to use the relevant channels to report any concerns regarding an individual working with children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

## **Updates and Training**

- For the period coronavirus measures are in place, the 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
- DSLs (and deputies) will continue to do what they reasonably can to keep up to date with safeguarding developments, such as via safeguarding partners, newsletters and professional advice groups
- The school will continue to regularly update all staff

## **Safeguarding of all children**

- All staff should continue to act immediately on any safeguarding concerns (whether on site or not) and follow the procedures laid down in the safeguarding policy and normal school practice
- Parents and Carers will be reminded of the importance of sharing safeguarding and welfare concerns with the school
- All staff should have the relevant information (phone numbers, email-addresses) of the DSL and DDSL. If both the DSL and DDSL are incapacitated, staff should know who is acting as safeguarding lead for the school (this could be a senior

member of school staff or another local head teacher). If the DSL is not available, all staff will be informed by email who the main contact is for the day

- School staff and volunteers should follow normal procedure if they have concerns about any staff member or volunteer who may pose a safeguarding risk to children
- Parents should ensure that up-to-date contact details are available to the school.

### **Safeguarding of children on the school site**

- Staff should be aware that children may return to school with disclosures relating the period of school closure. These should be acted on immediately in line with the usual protocols
- Vulnerable children and children expected at the setting but not then attending will be treated as a Child Missing in Education and the usual procedures followed
- A child who is expected at school (because a place has been booked for them by a parent or carer) but does not attend should be treated as Missing in Education and the relevant updated school procedures followed
- If the DSL is not on site, senior staff should know who is the DSL for the day and have contact details available.

### **Safeguarding children not attending a school setting**

- All staff who interact with children, including online, will 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
- Children and parents will be regularly reminded of safeguarding issues and any updates. Work specifically about safeguarding, keeping safe online, and guidance for children and adults about what to do if they are worried will be sent home via class teachers and the head's emails / newsletters
- Teachers will inform the head if they have had no contact with a child or family for the period of one week. The head will then follow the child missing in education guidance
- If staff need to contact families, they should do so as a private number on their own phones if necessary but by preference should use school phones
- Staff are aware of any vulnerable children (and potentially vulnerable children) and provision has been made for more rigorous checking - in procedures with these children. Staff are aware that **any** child could become vulnerable in these unusual circumstances and should remain on the alert for all pupils as usual.