

# St James School



## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### Academy closure arrangements for St James School

Policy Written by: Mark Barlow

Date: 14.04.2020

## Context

During this time St James School will continue to safeguard and promote the welfare of all of our students. We will endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment to those students who will continue to attend school and ensure we offer online support to all vulnerable students and their families.

We will continue to follow Keeping Children safe in education (KCSIE) guidance to ensure we follow all current statutory guidance to provide safeguarding and child protection support to all children and their families.

We will continue to be alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. Child protection continues to form part of the school's safeguarding responsibilities

The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles will remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children will always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children
- children should continue to be protected when they are online

### Key Contacts for St James School:

Name	Role	Contact	Email
<b>Lindsay Skinner</b>	Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher	01392 209922	LXS@stjamesexeter.co.uk
<b>Mark Barlow</b>	Safeguarding Lead	01392 209922	MZB@stjamesexeter.co.uk
<b>Sarah Howe</b>	Safeguarding Lead	07398978050	SXH@stjamesexeter.co.uk

# Child Protection Policy – amendments:

## Contact:

- DSL/Safeguarding Lead will be available throughout this time via telephone/email
- All children with EHCP and keyworker children will be welcome to attend school daily
- All children with a social worker will be expected to attend school daily unless the school are directed by the social worker that this is not possible (usually only due to health concerns)

## Reporting Concerns:

- Any member of staff who has a safeguarding/CP concern in relation to a child should continue to follow school protocol – inform safeguarding team (call/email) log all concerns on CPOMS – system will be monitored daily
- Any member of staff who has an concern for the safety of a child out of hours should contact MASH – 0345 155 1071 or if urgent 999

## Vulnerable Children:

- DSL/Members of the safeguarding team will continue to work with colleagues in social care and will where possible attend all meeting/conferences and child protection meetings via video/conference call
- DSL/ Members of the safeguarding team will endeavour to make weekly contact with social workers of those students on CIN/CP and CIC plans
- DSL/ Members of the safeguarding team will endeavour to make daily/weekly calls to vulnerable parents/carers/students
- DSL/ Members of the safeguarding team will ensure all calls are logged on the St James School ' Call log sheet'
- DSL/Members of the safeguarding team will record any concerns arising in these calls on CPOMS and initiate follow-up action

## Safer Recruitment:

- Any new staff joining St James school will receive virtual safeguarding training and expectations of all staff will continue
- Any volunteer/ or outside agency attending St James School will be DBS checked and all legislation and guidance will continue to be followed in line with safer recruitment guidance. All staff will be expected to follow code of conduct and will need to produce all relevant documentation
- Any member of staff who has a concern in relation to another member of staff/volunteer must follow the Whistleblowing guidance/policy

## Transition:

- DSL/Safeguarding Lead will continue to liaise with colleges and primary schools to ensure smooth transition for our most vulnerable students – this will include sharing of relevant safeguarding/CP concerns. Information regarding CIN/CP and CIC students and transferring of relevant safeguarding files.

### **Attendance:**

- Attendance will be logged with the Dfe on a daily basis
- Staff will follow all usual protocols for students expected to attend but absent- this will include a phone call to parents/carers to establish reasons for absence

### **Social Distancing:**

- During the closures, the students that are attending school we will be following government guidelines for social distancing

### **On-line Safety:**

- DSL/Safeguarding Lead will send out Safeguarding emails to students – emails will contain advice on 'staying safe in line and how to report a concern'

### **Peer on peer abuse:**

- We will continue to ensure our young people will receive support around any issues within their peer groups. DSL/ Members of the safeguarding team will be in regular contact with our most vulnerable students. All students can contact school staff during this time and there is advice and guidance on our school website for students to access on-line services.

### **Mental health**

- We will 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.

### **Children attending other settings**

- Where children are temporarily required to attend another setting, we will make sure the receiving school is provided with any relevant welfare and child protection information.
- Wherever possible, our DSL (or deputy) and/or special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) will share, as applicable:
  - The reason(s) why the child is considered vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them
  - The child's EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or personal education plan
  - Details of the child's social worker
- We will share this information before the child arrives as far as is possible, and otherwise as soon as possible afterwards.

**Please continue to follow all guidance/procedures and policies in the full Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy which can be viewed on the school website.**