

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh



Addendum to Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Covid-19 Arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection

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This addendum of St. Mary's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements during any periods of school closure during the Coronavirus pandemic. Unless stated in the addendum, all other details, processes and procedures of the existing Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy remain as current. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils continues to be of paramount importance during any COVID-19 closure periods.

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1. Procedures

Staff will continue to follow the procedures outlined in our school's Child Protection Policy which is available on our school website.

In addition, the following arrangements have been put in place to support families and monitor pupil safety:

- The school email address, main school phone number and an emergency mobile number have been made available to all parents. Parents have been informed that the Principal/ Designated Teacher is available at all times on this number.
- Teachers provide online learning via the school website/ C2k platform (Google Classroom) with strict procedures in place to minimise risk.
- The website provides parents with a range of resources and links to additional online learning, support and guidance.
- We would remind everyone to stay safe when using online resources and to report any concerns to a member of the safeguarding team.
- In line with the information previously provided to schools by the EA CPSS, teachers may make phone calls to parents. These will be pastoral in nature and a record will be kept of any issues reported by parents. Any concerns around pupil well-being will be shared without delay with a member of the Safeguarding team.
- If a member of staff is using their personal telephone their number will be withheld to ensure the protection of private information of staff.

2. Designated/Deputy Designated Teachers

During any School closure Mrs Louise Quinn (Principal) is contactable via 028 877 67356 / 07799900847 or lquinn460@c2kni.net and remains on the School premises during normal School hours from Monday to Friday.

The Designated Teacher, Miss Lauren Cush (lcush270@c2kni.net) and Deputy Designated Teacher, Mrs Donna Quinn (dquinn361@c2kni.net), are also available via email to deal with any child protection/safeguarding concerns.

3. Reporting a concern

Where members of staff have a concern about a pupil, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, this includes completing a Note of Concern, which can be done remotely. The member of staff should then phone the Designated Teacher or one of the Deputies, who will explain the way forward.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access the Note of Concern from home, they should phone the Designated Teacher, or one of the Deputy Designated Teachers. This will ensure that the concern is received.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

4. Online safety

St. Mary's will seek to provide a safe online environment for all pupils. Pupils and their parents have been issued with guidance in relation to Google Classroom. Guidance information for all staff has also been circulated. It is important that all staff who interact with pupils, including online, continue to look out for signs that a pupil may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and where appropriate, referrals should still be made to the Designated Teacher and/or one of the Deputies. A disclosure or concern over any online forum will be followed up as it would be in school. Parents are asked to appropriately filter and monitor their son/daughter's online activity.

5. Vulnerable pupils

St. Mary's will work with outside agencies to support any pupils who have been deemed vulnerable. When required, meetings with social services, such as LACs and Case Conferences will take place remotely. The Safeguarding Team will keep in regular contact with any pupils who have been deemed vulnerable through regular telephone calls.

6. Supporting pupils not in School

St. Mary's is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its pupils and staff. Pastoral support routes remain active and information is posted on the school website. Pupils and their parents are also encouraged to contact the School via telephone (**028 877 67356 / 07799900847**) or email **lquinn460@c2kni.net** . Safeguarding concerns will be referred directly to the Designated Teacher or one of the Deputies, and parents or pupils can email **lquinn460@c2kni.net** .

Pupils identified as needing pastoral support will receive regular communication, either directly or through parents/guardians. This communication will come from their class teacher in the first instance which will be followed up appropriately from a member of the safeguarding team in St. Mary's.

During Lockdown, the national health concerns relating to Covid-19, created uncertainty in the lives of children and young people. Daily routines, family life, friendship groups and the safe space that schools provided were disrupted.

For many children, the need to spend most of their day at home brought additional challenge, and for some this brought an additional safeguarding risk factor.

It is important that the adults responsible for safeguarding children are sensitive to their physical, social and emotional needs in these most unusual circumstances. It is critically important that children who are or may be at risk are identified so that that a proportionate, compassionate and sensitive response can be taken.

7. How a parent can raise an issue or express a concern

We would welcome parents asking for advice and help if they have concerns about their child's well-being or safety. Asking for help is a protective factor and parental concerns and requests for help will always be taken seriously.

Any member of staff will listen carefully to parental concerns and ensure that the request for help, if necessary, is brought to the attention of a member of the safeguarding team. In this case a decision can be made as to how best to provide help.

8. If school is open during COVID- 19 closures

If school is open for vulnerable pupils and key workers children the school will adhere to the EA guidance. If our school is part of a cluster of schools which are open, we will share relevant safeguarding information with the Designated Teacher and/or Principal. In accordance with our Child Protection procedures this information will be shared on a need to know basis.

In any event, we will follow current Department of Education and Department of Health guidelines regarding social distancing, hygiene and personal protective equipment to ensure the safety of both pupils and staff.

9. How a child can raise a concern

We know that while many children may be unaffected by periods of school closure due to the Coronavirus pandemic, there will be others who feel scared, lonely and those who miss school. Our safeguarding responsibility to all our children continues and we will seek to maintain contact with our children and young people as well as signpost them to other agencies.

We will use the following means to connect with our children and young people:

- Respond to emails via the c2k email addresses only.
- Respond to any concerning comments our young people post via online platforms such as Google Classroom.
- When contacting parents via phone we will always ask to speak to their child or young person.
- All our children will be signposted to other support agencies via the school website. (NSPCC Childline, CEOP, Safer Schools App)

10. Some useful links and contact telephone numbers

Miss Lauren Cush (Designated Teacher) lcush270@c2kni.net

Mrs Donna Quinn (Deputy Designated Teacher) dquinn361@c2kni.net

Mrs Louise Quinn (Principal) lquinn460@c2kni.net
02887767356 / 07799900847

Children's Services Gateway Team: 02837415285

PSNI Central Referral Unit: 02890259299

- <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/coronavirus>
- <https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worriesabout-the-world/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline/report-harmful-content>
- <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

11. Monitoring and Review

The Safeguarding team will review and amend these arrangements regularly during any periods of Covid-19 school closure in line with Departmental guidance and advice.

Signed:

(Designated Teacher)

(Principal)

(Chair of Board of Governors)

Date:
