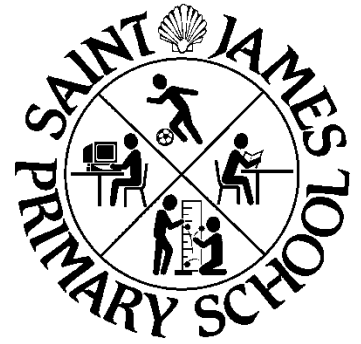


ST JAMES C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

COVID – 19 Addendum to the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy



This policy was reviewed and ratified by the Governing Body on 16th June 2020
The following persons are authorised to approve minor changes between reviews:

Chair of Governors Marcia Hare


Safeguarding Lead Governor Marcia Hare

Since ratification by the Governing Body the following changes have been made –

From 20th March 2020 Parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible. 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.

This does not replace St James C of E Primary School’s Safeguarding Policy but is an addendum to respond to the partial school closures.

Where the DfE have highlighted areas for a strengthened focus the “in my school this means that” section must be completed.

Date of Change: 1 st April 2020		
Addition	DfE guidance	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings
Addition	BCC guidance vulnerable children	https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/15896/safeguarding_guidance_during_school_closure
Addition	BCC guidance for collaborative/ hub schools	 HUB- Collaborative schools guidance.docx
Addition	DfE guidance	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools



Strengthened focus	DfE guidance	<p>The continued importance of all staff and volunteers acting immediately on any safeguarding concern.</p> <p>In my school this means that a DSL will be regularly available on site and staff will continue to act immediately on any given safeguarding concern. Staff should make reference to the threshold criteria Right Help Right Time and if they are concerned that a child is at risk, or that their needs appear to be significant and complex, then schools via DSL should refer children to Birmingham Children's Trust through a written referral. Schools must tell parents that they are making the referral for support and seek consent to share information. If a school is concerned that there are child protection concerns, consent is overridden and schools should not delay in contacting the Trust through CASS.</p>
Strengthened focus	DfE guidance	<p>What staff and volunteers should do if they have any concerns about a child</p> <p>In my school this means that staff follow policy procedures and speak to DSL. "In the best interests of the child" remains the priority. Staff should make reference to the threshold criteria Right Help Right Time and if they are concerned that a child is at risk, or that their needs appear to be significant and complex, then schools via DSL should refer children to Birmingham Children's Trust through a written referral. Schools must tell parents that they are making the referral for support and seek consent to share information. If a school is concerned that there are child protection concerns, consent is overridden and schools should not delay in contacting the Trust through CASS.</p>
Strengthened focus	DfE guidance	<p>DSL (and deputy) arrangements.</p> <p>In my school this means that a DSL will be available at all times as school remains open. DSLs will continue to have support from Birmingham Safeguarding Board. We will be sharing information with parents/carers on the school website and by text message. This messaging will go to all parents/carers and will include information where to get help and support, links to sources of education and entertainment etc</p>
Strengthened focus	DfE guidance	<p>The continued importance for school and college staff to work with and support children's social workers and the Local Authority Virtual School Head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children.</p> <p>In my school this means that records of attendance and contact</p>



		<p>with vulnerable groups will be kept so we can share records of CIN/CP/LAC/EHCP etc with Birmingham Children's Trust, as required. Schools should continue to submit their attendance return to the DfE daily as well as BCC EHCP form weekly. Being categorised does not mean that parents must send their children to school. Wherever possible children should remain at home if it is safe to do so.</p> <p>SENCO makes weekly phone calls with families of EHCP children and has weekly contact/update with link EHCP officer. SENCO will risk assess in consultation with parents to decide whether children need to be offered a school place or whether they can be safely looked after at home. Parents will be signposted to support available through external agencies. Teachers are sending bespoke work packs regularly to support home learning. Parents are reminded contact can be made via school office Mon-Fri 9am -3pm.</p>
Strengthened focus	DfE guidance	<p>Peer on peer abuse - given the very different circumstances schools and colleges are operating in, a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims (the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE should continue to inform any revised approach)</p> <p>In my school this means that we will continue to follow the principles set out in part 5 of Keeping Children safe in Education. Staff should continue to act on any concerns they may have immediately – about both children attending school and those at home by informing the DSL.</p>
Strengthened focus	DfE guidance	<p>What staff and volunteers should do if they have concerns about a staff member or volunteer who may pose a safeguarding risk to children (the principles in part 4 of KCSIE will continue to support how a school or college responds to any such concerns)</p> <p>In my school this means that any concerns are raised with the Head teacher. Concerns relating to the Head teacher should be raised with the Chair of Governors Mrs Marcia Hare.</p>
Strengthened focus	DfE guidance	<p>Any arrangements to support children that the school or college are concerned about who do not meet the 'vulnerable' definition.</p> <p>In my school this means that in addition to universal support, school will target individual families by text, to ensure that they are accessing FSM vouchers, or to discuss any other issues that may arise. School has set up a food bank in order to support families if needed and can access Handsworth Association support.</p> <p>Parents are encouraged to look at school website for up to date</p>



		<p>information and reminded contact can be made via school office Mon-Fri 9am -3pm.</p> <p>A list has been made by DSLs of who we deem “vulnerable” children/families so that phone calls can be made weekly to ensure they are functioning well, whether they are accessing support, in need of food, FSM vouchers etc. The learning mentor makes weekly phone calls and liaises with DSL if any follow up/additional support is needed. Families are called weekly, fortnightly for well-being chats. Some parents email, some phone the school – we have had staff available in the office throughout the period of closure.</p>
Strengthened focus	DfE guidance	<p>What arrangements are in place to keep children not physically attending the school or college safe, especially online and how concerns about these children should be progressed.</p> <p>In my school this means that regular sharing of information via school website/text messaging to parents/carers. Phone calls are made to individuals/families by Class teachers, SENCO, Learning Mentor, DSLs regularly. Age appropriate websites for home learning have been added to learning packs and the website as well as support of other services provided by external agencies.</p> <p>Websites to support parents in keeping children safe online have been added to website.</p> <p>Parents/children can send messages to members of staff via home learning email and these are monitored regularly.</p> <p>Whilst staff are working from home they should continue to adhere to the Acceptable Use policy.</p> <p>School will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.</p>

It is important that all staff and volunteers are aware of the new policy and are kept up to date as it is revised. The revised policy should continue to be made available publicly.

