

COVID-19

Partial school re-opening arrangements for Safeguarding and Child Protection



ST MICHAEL'S
C of E PRIMARY
HIGHGATE

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Responsible for this policy	Geraldine Gallagher

To nurture and inspire our children to develop a love of learning in a supportive Christian community and become the best they can be.

1. Context

On Wednesday 20th May 2020 the government published an update to its safeguarding guidance as it plans for more children to be in school.

This 2nd addendum to the St Michael's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements for the partial re-opening period. This is not a stand-alone document. It should be read in conjunction with the main policy and 1st addendum issued 20th March, as well as the risk assessment document: 'St. Michael's C of E Primary School Risk Assessment for re-opening after partial closure'.

2. Key Contacts

Role	Name	Contact Number	Email
Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead	Geraldine Gallagher	07800977737	head@stmichaelsn6.com
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Merle Parker	07875417726	mparker@stmichaelsn6.com
	Fran Sorapure	07887932623	fsorapure@stmichaelsn6.com
Chair of Governors	Mark Daly		mark.dailey@madano.com
Safeguarding Lead Governor	Cordelia Brown		cordeliabrown100@gmail.com

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead

St Michael's school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and two Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Geraldine Gallagher
- The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Merle Parker and Fran Sorapure

On each day, staff on site and those engaged in remote teaching and planning will be made aware of who that person is and how to speak to them.

The optimal scenario is to have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. Where this is not the case a trained DSL (or deputy) will be available to be contacted via phone or video call - for example when working from home.

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This might include updating and managing access to child protection online management system, CPOMS, and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputies) and, as required, liaising with children's social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

The DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

4. Reporting a concern as children return to school

Where staff have a concern about a child attending school or continuing with home learning during the partial re-opening period, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection Policy. This includes making a report via CPOMS, which can be done remotely.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access CPOMS from home, they should email Geraldine Gallagher, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead, *and* the Deputy DSLs. This will ensure that the concern is received. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should use CPOMS to report the concern to the Headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of Governors, Mark Daly and the Safeguarding Lead Governor, Cordelia Brown.

5. Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC Plans).

Government advice states that the attendance of vulnerable children is expected, where it is appropriate for them (that is, where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household, and/or following a risk assessment for children with an EHC Plan), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending. Vulnerable children – regardless of year group – who have

not been attending in the recent period are expected to return to school provision where this would now be appropriate for them to do so.

St Michael's will continue to encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend school, and will continue to maintain regular contact with those who remain at home.

Children with an EHC Plan will have had a risk-assessment carried out soon after school closure, in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This will be reviewed prior to the partial re-opening of the school.

St Michael's will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children's social workers and the Local Authority Virtual School Head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. The lead person for this is Linda Kennedy, Inclusion Leader.

6. Attendance monitoring

During the partial re-opening period, local authorities and education settings are not required to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

St Michael's and social workers will agree with parents/carers whether children in need should be attending school. St Michael's will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not. St Michael's will also follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care in school for their child(ren) and the child(ren) subsequently do not attend.

7. Online safety in school

St Michael's will continue to provide a safe environment, including online. This includes the use of an online filtering system. Where students are using computers in school, appropriate supervision will be in place.

8. Children and online safety away from school

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and, where appropriate, referrals should still be made to children's social care and, as required, the police.

Online teaching will continue to follow the same principles as set out in the staff code of conduct and e-safety policy to ensure children at home are safe online.

St Michael's will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

9. Supporting children not in school

St Michael's is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children. Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in school, they will continue to ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan must be recorded on CPOMS, as should a record of contacts made. The communication plans can include: remote contact, phone contact, door-step visits. Other individualised contact methods will be considered and recorded.

St Michael's and its DSL will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan. This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages. The school will keep in regular contact with children and families via letters from The Headteacher, videos posted on the school website and through Google Classroom.

St Michael's recognises that school is a protective factor for children, and the current circumstances can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. Teachers at St Michael's need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work for completion at home.

Where teachers notice through their interactions via Google classroom that children are presenting with emotional and mental health needs, they will discuss this with their line manager who may signpost to various sources of support, in consultation with parents/carers.

10. Supporting children in school

St Michael's is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students, and the school will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish.

The Headteacher will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff-to-pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety. St Michael's will continue to refer to the latest Government guidance for education and childcare settings on the re-opening of schools, and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on social distancing, handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19. **NB** for full details please see 'St. Michael's C of E Primary School Risk Assessment for re-opening after partial closure'.

St Michael's recognises that the current circumstances can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents/carers. St Michael's will ensure that as children begin to return to school, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child.

11. Links to relevant Government guidance

Government guidance on safeguarding during the school closure and partial re-opening period can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers> (20 May update)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>