

Appendix to St. Bede's Catholic College Safeguarding Policy

COVID -19 Changes to standard safeguarding operating procedures

Despite the current circumstances, safeguarding principles remain the same and we will continue to adhere to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' for all safeguarding matters. However, some safeguarding and child protection actions have changed;

- The best interests of children must always continue to come first. It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the college site.
- The DSL and deputy DSL are available at all times : If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act immediately by logging what they are concerned about on the college CPOMS system using this link : <https://stbedesbristol.cpoms.net/> or by emailing Derek O'Rourke : d.orourke@stbcc.org and cc. Francesca D'Arcy f.darcy@stbcc.org
- If the DSL is not physically on the college site, the SLT duty member will carry out safeguarding actions in consultation with the DSL via telephone.

On-line safety

Children should continue to be protected when they are online. Children of keyworkers will be monitored when they are on the college site and a reminder will be issued to parents and carers to follow on-line safety measures by taking responsibility for;

- Asking their child to show them which social media apps they use and what they like about them. Talk about how they use them and what makes them so engaging
- Explaining how their child can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts & images
- Checking if any of their apps have 'geo-location' enabled, sharing their location unintentionally
- Showing them how to report offensive comments or block people who upset them
- Checking 'tagging' settings so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, their child's identity is not revealed. Children should ask permission before posting appropriate images and adults should seek consent from children before sharing photos on-line
- Encouraging their child to come and talk to them if they see anything that upsets them
- Taking note of guidance around age-ratings on television and film content
- Referring to these sites offering support;
 - [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
 - [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
 - [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
 - [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
 - [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
 - [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

Vulnerable Children

During the college closure we are operating a check-in for vulnerable children. The 1:1 and HOH teams have been allocated children to contact. However, If you have a concern about any child, do not hesitate to share with the DSL or HOH. The SENDco will continue to lead the LSA team to remotely support children with EHC plans.

A reminder about contact with children

Contact with children is only to be made via the child's college email address : name@stbcc.org. If parental permission is gained, it is permitted for a member of college staff to speak with a child on the telephone, with an appropriate adult in the vicinity of the child.

When we are in contact with children we should assume responsibility to check on the following that they are ;

- encouraged to complete a range of learning and leisure activities
- eating, sleeping and exercising appropriately
- communicating with a number of people
- aware of the facts about COVID-19 and know how to protect themselves and others through good hygiene and social distancing
- aware of the risks of accessing inappropriate on-line content
- feeling safe

How a child or a parent/carer can report a concern

If a child has a concern, they will be reminded that they can also contact the college on contactus@stbcc.org or by calling either Childline 0800 1111 or NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

In an emergency : 999

Children's services will continue to operate and the DSL will communicate with teams in the three local authorities based on reports from college staff as appropriate. Parents and carers are aware of the contact details and that anyone can call the services listed below;

Authority	Contact
Bristol	0117 903 6444
North Somerset	01275 888 808
South Gloucestershire	01454 866000
Emergency	999

Special notes about Peer on peer abuse including any form of sexual harassment or sexual violence during college closure

1. If a child discloses an incident, we do not promise confidentiality, we must be clear that the incident will be shared with the designated safeguarding lead or children's social care.
2. We listen carefully to the child, being non-judgmental, not asking leading questions and only prompting the child where necessary with open questions – where, when, what. Facts only, no personal comments. If you are forwarded illegal images of a child do not attach these when reporting to the DSL.
3. Report any disclosure or concern immediately on the college on-line reporting system CPOMS [this will automatically be flagged to the DSL and Deputy DSL]
4. Any case of peer on peer sexual harassment or violence reported will be considered by the DSL in consultation with the deputy DSL via a telephone call.
5. The DSL will carry out a risk assessment based on the report submitted and will consider;
 - the victim, especially their protection and support
 - the alleged perpetrator
 - all other children and staff, including any actions that are appropriate to protect them if they are either on-site or off-site

In every case, the DSL will ensure that the victim is aware of their options of reporting any incident to the police and how they wish to proceed. The DSL will study each case and consider the requirement to contact the police directly or after immediate consultation with children's services.

Note : If sexual violence has occurred recently, this should be reported by dialling 999 to help the Police deal with it as urgently and effectively as possible.