



**Annex 1**



**COVID-19 school closure arrangements for  
Safeguarding and Child Protection at**

**ST MICHAEL'S MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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Policy owner: ST MICHAEL'S MIDDLE SCHOOL

Date: 20.05.2020

Date shared with staff: 01.06.2020



## Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

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 and cannot be safely cared for at home. From 1st June 2020, schools are asked to prepare for the wider reopening of the school, initially to those children in years R, 1, 6 and to prepare for some face to face contact for years 10 and 12.

This addendum of the St Michael's Middle School Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy should be read in conjunction with the school's risk assessment and health and safety policy and contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

1. Context
2. Key Contacts
3. Vulnerable children
4. Attendance monitoring
5. Designated Safeguarding Lead
6. Reporting a concern
7. Safeguarding Training and induction
8. Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff
9. Online safety in schools and colleges
10. Children and online safety away from school and college
11. Supporting children not in school
12. Supporting children in school
13. Mental Health Provision
14. Peer on Peer Abuse
15. Support from the Wimborne Academy Trust

**Key contacts**

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Laura Howieson	01202 883433	<a href="mailto:l.howieson@stmichael'smiddle.org">l.howieson@stmichael'smiddle.org</a>
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Ron Jenkinson Paul Andrews Robin Wallis	01202 883433	<a href="mailto:rdj@stmichaelsmiddle.org">rdj@stmichaelsmiddle.org</a> <a href="mailto:p.andrews@stmichaelsmiddle.org">p.andrews@stmichaelsmiddle.org</a> <a href="mailto:r.wallis@stmichaelsmiddle.org">r.wallis@stmichaelsmiddle.org</a>
Headteacher	Ron Jenkinson		As above
Trust Safeguarding Manager	Liz west		<a href="mailto:ceo@wimborneacademytrust.org">ceo@wimborneacademytrust.org</a>
Chair of Academy Committee	Pola Bevan		Contact through <a href="mailto:office@stmichaelsmiddle.org">office@stmichaelsmiddle.org</a>
Safeguarding Academy Committee Member	Sheila Soper		Contact through <a href="mailto:office@stmichaelsmiddle.org">office@stmichaelsmiddle.org</a>

**Vulnerable Children**

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans. It can also include those who are PLAC or who have historic CP / CiN plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Other children may also have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued attendance. This might include children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training'), those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers and others at the provider and local authority's discretion



Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

St Michael's Middle School 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 will be: Laura Howieson 01202 883433

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend an education setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an education setting, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and St Michael's Middle School will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, St Michael's Middle School or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

St Michael's Middle School will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

### **Attendance Monitoring**

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance.

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

### **HOW WILL THIS LOOK AT ST MICHAEL'S MIDDLE SCHOOL?**



To support the above, St Michael's Middle School will, when communicating with parents/carers and carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

In all circumstances where a vulnerable child does not take up their place at school, or discontinues, St Michael's Middle School will notify their social worker.

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

St Michael's Middle School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and 3 Deputy DSLs.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: LAURA HOWIESON 01202 883433

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: RON JENKINSON, PAUL ANDREWS and ROBIN WALLIS.

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 online video - 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, MyConcern and liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) 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.

It is important that all St Michael's Middle School staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day, staff on site will be made aware of that person is and how to speak to them – this will usually be the member of SLT on rota for that week but all other leads will be contactable via the usual channels.

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

### **Reporting a Concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the school Safeguarding Policy, this includes making a report via MyConcern, which can be done remotely. This information is updated automatically and will appear instantly to the DSL and DDSL.

In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their MyConcern from home, they should email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Headteacher and the Trust Safeguarding manager (Liz West). This will ensure that the concern is received.



The school (led by the DSL or deputy) will do all they reasonably can to ask parents and carers to advise them of any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that they should be aware of before a child returns

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

As more children return to school, there is the propensity for more disclosures to come from children as they discuss their time at home. Staff need to be aware that KCSiE 2019 is the statutory safeguarding guidance that schools and colleges should continue to have regard to as required by legislation. All concerns, no matter how small, should follow the procedures set out in KCSiE 2019. Staff should also be reminded of **Tell, Explain, Describe** if a disclosure is made.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the school, they should immediately report the concern to the Headteacher. If there is a requirement to make a notification to the Headteacher whilst away from school, this should be done verbally and followed up with an email to the Headteacher.

Concerns around the Headteacher should be directed to the Chair of the Academy Committee: Pola Bevan

Wimborne Academy Trust will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

### **Safeguarding Training and Induction**

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID 19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing school staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter St Michael's Middle School, they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

If staff are deployed from another educational setting or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:-

-the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check

-there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with children



-there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual

For movement within Wimborne Academy Trust, schools should seek assurance from the HR Manager that the member of staff has received appropriate safeguarding training.

Upon arrival, they will be given a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

There is no requirement to obtain a new DBS check for returning staff who have continued to be employed but have not been working in regulated activity during partial school closures. If for any reason the school has concerns about the individual, they may obtain a new check in the usual way

### **Safer Recruitment/Volunteers and Movement of Staff**

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. When recruiting new staff, St Michael's Middle School will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

St Michael's Middle School will avoid using volunteers but if they do utilise volunteers, they will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

St Michael's Middle School will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

St Michael's Middle School will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's 'Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing *Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk*

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current National emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any school is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, St Michael's Middle School will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.



### **Online Safety in School**

St Michael's Middle School 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.

### **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 Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and, as required, the SSCT.

Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in Wimborne Academy Trust's code of conduct.

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

St Michael's Middle School will do all that they reasonably can to keep all children safe when online and especially when working online at home.

Wimborne Academy Trust does not expect use of Live Learning Lessons, however, some sessions can be videoed and shared with colleagues and pupils if deemed necessary by the school. Below is the advice from Dorset County Safeguarding and Standards Team to consider when delivering virtual lessons:

#### **Advice for Video Learning Sessions**

Considering school closures and the need to provide distance learning for pupils please consider the below additional safeguarding measures alongside your settings IT/online learning policies.

If using live links to pupils at home:

- No 1:1s, groups only
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.

#### **Within School**

- All live lessons must be carried out using school equipment only.
- Ensure all live lessons are recorded.
- Ensure a clear timetable of each online session is completed, detailing:





1. *Each pupil and the teacher they interacted with,*
2. *The content of the live lesson*
3. *The time it started and finished*
4. *Details of the parent/carer spoken to*
5. *Where in the home the child was when receiving the learning lesson*
6. *Any issues that arose during this session*

The room used to deliver these learning sessions should be accessible, i.e. the teacher should be able to be heard and seen.

The senior Leadership team should ensure online lessons are appropriate by;

1. *Being aware of the content*
2. *Dropping into the classes throughout the day (unannounced)*
3. *Viewing a cross section of recordings*
4. *Gain feedback from the Parent/ carer and child after each live link*

### **Pupils at Home**

The pupils parent/Carer should be spoken to at the start of each live lesson to confirm the following:

- *The child is in a public area of the house*
- *The child should be appropriately dressed*
- *The child is not alone in a bedroom, if this is not the case the child must be asked to move to another part of the home*

*or if the parent is staying with their child they can remain where they are for the duration of the live lesson*

## **Under no circumstances should any live lessons be carried out from a teacher's family home**

### **Supporting Children Not in School**

St Michael's Middle School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its Children and Young people.

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 should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan will be shared with staff and a record of contact is kept. MyConcern will signpost to those receiving support in this way.



St Michael's Middle School 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. This will be done in conjunction with SLT and the pastoral team.

The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

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

St Michael's Middle School will ensure that where we care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, we ensure appropriate support is in place for them. This will be bespoke to each child.

### **Supporting children in school**

St Michael's Middle School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

St Michael's Middle School will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher, in conjunction with SLT, will ensure that appropriate staff are on site and staff to pupil ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety including first aid cover.

St Michael's Middle School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19. This will be sent to all staff.

Where St Michael's Middle School has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or first aiders – they will discuss the concerns immediately with Wimborne Academy Trust via the daily call.

### **Mental Health Provision**

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of children and their parents. Where the school has children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, and/or more children returning to school from 1 June 2020 onwards, the school will ensure appropriate support is in place for them.



St Michael's Middle School will identify children who might need additional support, and to put this support in place. St Michael's Middle School staff will be reminded that mental health issues can bring about changes in a child's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, all of which could be an indication of an underlying problem. This can include for example being fearful or withdrawn; aggressive or oppositional; or excessive clinginess. Support for pupils and students in the current circumstances will include existing provision in St Michael's Middle School (although this may be delivered in different ways, for example over the phone for those children still not attending provision) or from specialist staff or support services.

Teachers will be made aware of the impact the current circumstances can have on the mental health of those pupils (and their parents) who are continuing to work from home, including when setting expectations of childrens' work.

### **Peer on Peer Abuse**

ST MICHAEL'S MIDDLE SCHOOL recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a school receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within the Child Protection Policy.

The school will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on MyConcern and appropriate referrals made.

### **Support from Wimborne Academy Trust**

Wimborne Academy Trust will provide support and guidance as appropriate to enable the DSL to carry out their role effectively.

This includes, remotely accessing Child Protection files for the purpose of quality assurance, support, guidance and direction.

Wimborne Academy Trust will also provide regular group calls to ensure protocol is followed and to follow up on any school supervision needs.