

Appendix 1

Child Protection COVID-19 arrangements

Annex Date: 5th March 2021

Key contact details

	Name	Contact number & mobile phone	Email address
Headteacher	Mr D Gidman	07879622119	GidmanD@stjohnbosco.org.uk
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs C Roberts	07879622185	Clare.roberts2@stjohnbosco.org.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)	Mrs N Styles	07519120866	Nicki.styles@stjohnbosco.org.uk
Chair of Governors	Mr J Gibbons	07803 922 564	johna.gibbons@hotmail.co.uk
Link Governor for Safeguarding	Ms A Cain	07790579880	Allison.Cain@si.liverpool.gov.uk

This annex provides guidance to all adults working within the school whether paid or voluntary or directly employed by the school or by a third party.

Keeping Children Safe in Education is statutory safeguarding guidance we will continue to have regard to as per our legislative duty. The government has provided additional guidance to support governing bodies, proprietors, senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) in order that they can continue to have appropriate regard to KCSIE and keep their children safe. The additional guidance period can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

This annex should be read alongside St John Bosco Arts College's Child Protection policy, Part 1 and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020, and in conjunction with Part 1 of the School Improvement Liverpool Schools Safeguarding Handbook which is made available to all staff and volunteers.

1. Context

From the 8th March 2021, schools will begin to welcome back all pupils. St John Bosco has set out a clear timetable for this return, with testing which is published on our website. Schools were instructed to move to remote learning for all pupils other than those children of key workers and vulnerable children; this will continue for those pupils until normal service is resumed. Government guidance to support schools to plan and risk assess can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

Our school's risk assessment will be updated and review on an ongoing basis.

During this time, **St John Bosco Arts College** will do what it reasonably can in order to keep all of our children safe. In most cases, the majority of our children will physically be attending the school although CEV and those asked to isolate will not. It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs that a child may be at risk or in need of additional support or services. Any such concerns will be dealt with in line with our main Child Protection policy and local safeguarding arrangements. Where appropriate, referrals will still be made to children's services and as required, the police, **without delay**.

All staff and volunteers should be aware of the heightened risk to all children and specifically those who are no longer attending school on a daily basis, and should ensure they are familiar with the indicators of abuse set out within the school's main Child Protection Policy, including but not limited to, the key areas of:

- Domestic abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Criminal and sexual exploitation
- Radicalisation

2. Provision for children of key workers and those defined by the government as vulnerable.

The school's plans and risk assessments will consider how provision is made for children of key workers and those defined by the government as vulnerable.

The government defines vulnerable children via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

School will contact all children who are not attending school at least three times a week. This will be reviewed during safeguarding managerial meetings. School will make clear the importance of attending school and offer additional support to those children who are anxious about returning to school for any reason through pastoral, safeguarding and Chaplaincy team. Additional consideration has been given to those pupils who will struggle to wear a face-covering for extended periods of time. Schools will continue to offer blended online learning to children who are CEV or self-isolating.

St John Bosco Arts College will continue to work with and support children's services and other agencies to help protect vulnerable children.

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead

Schools should ensure wherever possible there is always a trained DSL or deputy available on site. All safeguarding concerns should be **reported verbally and in writing without delay** to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. It is recognised however that this may not be possible and where this is the case, we will consider the following option:

- A trained DSL or deputy is available to be contacted via phone, email or video call when working from home

If it is not possible to have a trained DSL or deputy on site, **St John Bosco Arts College** will ensure that there is a senior leader who takes responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site. This senior leader can also take advice from School Improvement Liverpool’s School Improvement Officers for Safeguarding:

safeguarding@si.liverpool.gov.uk

It is essential that all staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL or deputy and are made aware of the arrangements on a daily basis regarding who that named person is and how to speak to them.

If staff have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a student during this period of lockdown, they should report the concern to a member of the safeguarding team without delay. Staff should use telephone contact in the first instance using the normal school directory. Staff should then follow up the call with an email to safeguarding@stjohnbosco.org.uk . Should it be necessary to require access to child protection records, staff should contact the Headteacher, DSL or Deputy DSL only using the following contact details:

	Name	Contact number & mobile phone	Email address
Headteacher	Mr D Gidman	07879622119	GidmanD@stjohnbosco.org.uk
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs C Roberts	07879 622 185	Clare.roberts2@stjohnbosco.org.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)	Mrs N Styles	07519120866	Nicki.styles@stjohnbosco.org.uk

Staff should follow the procedures set out in the main Child Protection policy for contacting and reporting concerns to the DSL and/or deputy.

The safeguarding team will continue to engage with social workers and attend and contribute to all multi-agency meetings, as determined by the local procedures for remote meetings.

The DSL will ensure that the school is represented at all multi agency meetings in an appropriate way by identifying a secure and confidential space where virtual attendance at meetings can take place, without interruption. School will ensure there is access to appropriate technology to support this.

Safeguarding supervision for the safeguarding team will continue to take place in order to review actions and decisions made, and support emotional wellbeing. We will consider how this is managed should staff be required to work remotely, or on a rotational basis, to ensure all staff are able to participate in and have access to appropriate supervision.

4. Safeguarding procedures

Our school will continue to follow our child protection, managing allegations policies and staff code of conduct. The school will continue to follow normal [Local Safeguarding Children Board Procedures](#). For children who continue to attend the school site, staff responsible for those children will be aware of children with specific safeguarding or health needs or disabilities. Medicines should be stored and administered safely. Everyone should be clear as to the setting's child protection and fire evacuation procedures and other key safeguarding policies. Those working on the school premises should know how to contact the on-site Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputies and First Aiders. If staff are working on a rota basis, there should always be appropriately trained key personnel on site. The names of these staff should be displayed and updated as required.

Where staff in school have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in our main Child Protection policy. This includes making a report via telephone contact in the first instance using the normal school directory. Staff should then follow up the call with an email to safeguarding@stjohnbosco.org.uk. Staff are reminded of the need to report any safeguarding concern immediately **both verbally and in writing, and without delay** to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. The revised statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2020) emphasises the need to report **any safeguarding concerns related to a child's mental health** to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

If any member of staff believes a child is at risk of harm then the Designated Safeguarding Lead should ring Liverpool Careline on 0151 233 3700 (or the children's services department of the local authority where the child lives), **without delay**. If the Designated Safeguarding Lead is *unavailable* then **any** member of staff should ensure Liverpool Careline is contacted without delay.

If a child is in immediate/imminent danger then staff should ring the police.

School will continue to obtain the voice of the child to appropriately support assessment of the child's level of need.

[Safeguarding-mate](#) can provide additional key guidance to all staff regarding key safeguarding procedures.

Concerns regarding the conduct of any adult working on site (**staff member, volunteer, supply staff, other third-party staff**) should continue to be dealt with in line with the school's managing allegations policy and local safeguarding children partnership procedures.

5. Attendance monitoring

All staff should remain vigilant to poor or erratic attendance being an indicator of safeguarding concerns particularly neglect or child exploitation. School Improvement Liverpool has provided additional guidance and escalation processes for monitoring the attendance of vulnerable students including when children suddenly stop attending and cannot be contacted. In these circumstances the school will act, without delay, to establish the welfare of a child. School staff may conduct a door step visit to a child's home following all social distancing guidance. This can provide opportunity to speak to a child and understand their needs and wishes whilst maintaining social distancing. Attendance issues will continue to be discussed during safeguarding supervision meetings.

St John Bosco Arts College will continue to monitor all children absent from school by contacting them regularly and making home visits as require. This will again be reviewed weekly at our safeguarding managerial meetings.

Shielding advice is currently in place and the advice is for those who are clinically extremely vulnerable should shield until 31st March 2021, therefore all children identified as clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school.

6. Safer Recruitment

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children. Schools should continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, set out in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020.

The government introduced temporary changes to support the ID checking during the first national lockdown:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines>

It is assumed these temporary changes may be reintroduced. In all cases all the DfE pre-employment checks set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education will need to have been completed including ensuring all original documents have been physically seen prior to the individual commencing work.

Where schools are using volunteers, they should continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education. **St John Bosco Arts College** will ensure that there are no circumstances where a volunteer who has not been checked will be left unsupervised with children or allowed to work in regulated activity. If new staff or volunteers are recruited, the usual Safer Recruitment processes will be followed, and they will also be provided with a safeguarding induction.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the pandemic, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that our school is aware, on any given day, which staff and volunteers will be in the school and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, we will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education.

7. Mental Health

It is acknowledged that the current circumstances surrounding lockdown and COVID-19 are particularly stressful and may cause increased anxieties and stress for all members of our school community. When children and staff are away from their usual routine and social contact, this can become a negative and stressful experience. **St John Bosco Arts College** will ensure there is appropriate support available for the whole school community at this time. Support can include existing provision in the school, or from specialist staff or support services. School will make welfare calls to each child and member of staff, each day throughout term time, and weekly during holiday periods. If staff identify issues during their conversations with families, they will offer support and signpost appropriately. Where possible, further support will be given via telephone for students and families who are in greater need. External agencies will continue to provide services in line with their own working arrangements throughout the crisis. Where children of key workers and vulnerable children continue to attend the setting, appropriate support will be offered to them whilst on site.

All staff should be able to recognise behaviours in children that might suggest they are experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken following the school's child protection policy.

The school community can also be signposted to the government's advice on supporting children and young people's mental health during the COVID-19 outbreak, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing?priority-taxonomy=b350e61d-1db9-4cc2-bb44-fab02882ac25>

There are also a range of resources provided by the Liverpool Learning Partnership, available here:

<https://www.liverpoollearningpartnership.com/resources-to-help-during-social-distancing-and-self-isolation/>
https://padlet.com/jholder_llp/goingbacktoschool

Staff should also be aware of the mental health of their pupils and parents when setting expectations regarding pupil's work when they are at home.

8. Online safety

School staff should continue to refer to the guidance for online safety in the main child protection policy.

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 police.

St John Bosco Arts College will continue to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children when they are online on the school's IT systems or recommended resources. Measures will be put in place to ensure safe IT arrangements and **St John Bosco Arts College** will consider what the contingency arrangements are if the named IT staff become unavailable.

To support schools in delivering online remote learning, the DfE have produced safeguarding guidance for remote education, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The [UK Council for Internet Safety provides information to help governing boards and proprietors assure themselves](#) that any new arrangements continue to effectively safeguard children online.

The [UK Safer Internet Centre's professional online safety helpline](#) also provides support for the children's workforce with any online safety issues they face

In the consideration of online safety the DfE have revised Annex C of Keeping Children safe in Education which now provides guidance in respect of education at home: where children are being asked to learn online at home the department has provided advice to support schools and colleges do so safely: ['Safeguarding in schools colleges and other providers'](#) and ['Safeguarding and remote education'](#)

The school will also take account of the following guidance:

Gov.uk

[Teaching Online Safety in Schools](#)

[Advice for teachers and leaders on remote education during Covid-19](#)

[Get help with technology for remote education during coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

LGfL

<https://coronavirus.lgfl.net/safeguarding>

SWGfL

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/safe-remote-learning/>

[SWGfL – Safeguarding and privacy online](#)

[SWGfL guidance for schools re-opening](#)

UK Safer Internet Centre

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/working-remotely-advice-professionals-parents-posh-rhc>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/safe-remote-learning-hub>

NSPCC

[NSPCC- Netware guidance around Zoom and other Apps](#)

[NSPCC: Online safety during the coronavirus](#)

[NSPCC: Undertaking remote teaching safely](#)

Where children are not physically attending school, **St John Bosco Arts College** will consider the safety of our children when they are asked to work online. The starting point for online teaching remains the same as the principles set out in our school's staff code of conduct. This policy includes acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships and communication including the use of social media. This policy applies equally to any existing or new online and distance learning arrangements which have been introduced. The principles set out in the [guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings published by the Safer Recruitment Consortium](#) alongside with the [COVID addendum](#) to this guidance should be adhered to by all staff.

Any online learning tools or systems recommended for use by **St John Bosco Arts College**, are be in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

St John Bosco Arts College use ClassCharts online platform to enable students to access appropriate learning resources. This enables students and parents to access material with a secure log in and school leaders can access all work set by class teachers ensuring it is age appropriate and relevant to all learners. If students have concerns whilst online they have had training in school via student briefings, signposting where to get necessary help. In addition parents have received this information via 'Parent App'. There is also a section on the College website in the Safeguarding and E-Safety area signposting relevant agencies. Further to this, all students are contacted daily by designated staff via a welfare call. Any ICT concerns are then forwarded to Miss Crowley and followed up as appropriate.

Our school will also be in contact with parents and carers during this time. Communication with parents will reinforce the importance of children being safe online. Families will be made aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and who their child is going to be interacting with online, including members of staff from our school.

St John Bosco Arts College acknowledges that some parents and carers may choose to supplement the school's online offer with support from online companies and in some cases, individual tutors. We will raise awareness with parents the importance of only accessing online support from a reputable organisation or individual who can provide evidence that they are a safe organisation and can be trusted to have access to children. We will signpost parents to support such as [Internet matters](#), [London Grid for Learning](#), [Net-aware](#), [Parent info](#), [Thinkuknow](#) and the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#).

9. Operation Encompass

If a child, subject to an Operation Encompass notification, is not attending our school and is being cared for at home, we will risk assess the situation taking into consideration the history of the child and family. This information will be used in order to determine our response to each individual case. In all situations we would always aim to speak to the child.

If school receive a notification relating to a child who does not attend our setting, we will notify safeguarding.referrals@merseyside.police.uk.

Families at risk of Domestic Abuse can be signposted to the following resources:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help>

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/covid-19-resource-hub/>

<http://thehideout.org.uk/>

<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

<https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Safety%20planning%20guide,%20victims%20and%20survivors,%20COVID-19.pdf>

10. Peer on peer abuse

St John Bosco Arts College recognises that during the Covid 19 period and given the potential for further school closures or partial closures a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where we receive a report of peer on peer abuse, we will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within our main Child Protection policy. We 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 will be recorded using the agreed methods and appropriate referrals made.

Our school will refer to the guidance detailed below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people>

11. Monitoring

St John Bosco Arts College will develop arrangements to ensure all staff and volunteers are aware and have understood any additional safeguarding guidance set out in this addendum. This appendix and the school's safeguarding arrangements will be kept under ongoing review.