

Addendum to Cardinal Newman College's Safeguarding, Child Protection and Prevent Policy (March 2019) in response to COVID-19

The college's above named policy remains in place and reflects the usual safeguarding arrangements. This addendum is to reflect the arrangements in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The content of this addendum will remain under review as circumstances continue to evolve and will be supported by regular procedural updates.

This addendum has been produced with reference to the DfE guidance Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers (Published 27 March 2020) ([Link here](#)). This guidance is explicit in stating the following fundamental safeguarding principals remain in place:

- *“with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first*
- *if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately*
- *a DSL or deputy should be available*
- *it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children*
- *children should continue to be protected when they are online”*

Advice from safeguarding partners

The college will take into account and review policies and procedures in light of any updated advice from safeguarding partners, e.g. the local Safeguarding Children Partnership which includes local authorities, the police and NHS clinical commissioning groups. Lancashire County Council provide daily bulletins which are being circulated to the college's DSLs.

Action to take if you have concerns about a young person

During college closure: If there is immediate concerns for the safety of a young person emergency services (999) can be contacted directly. The college's DSL remain active during college closure and can be contacted via mobile phone (provided on internal email) or the usual internal college communication methods. Staff should continue to use CEDAR to record concerns and information and refer to the procedural guidance notice for 'Safeguarding during college closure' emailed to all staff on 19th March 2020.

Continued safeguarding priorities and practices

The usual college's principals and expectations for safeguarding continue to be in place, in particular relation to:

- the importance of all staff taking action if they have any safeguarding concerns
- the importance of all staff acting immediately
- the college's DSL remain active in their duties and available for advice, guidance and referrals.
- DSL's continue to liaise and support external safeguarding partners, such as local authority virtual schools, police, social workers and children and family wellbeing service case workers
- in situations where you are unable to make contact with a DSL and require urgent action the Principal should be contacted

Arrangements for Vulnerable Young People

Guidance from the DfE: During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, vulnerable children and young people are defined as those who:

- *are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked after child*
- *have an education, health and care (EHC) plan whose needs cannot be met safely in the home environment*
- *have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who are therefore in need of continued education provision*
- *This might include children on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, or those who are young carers, and others at the provider and local authority discretion.*

Students who meet these definitions are appropriately flagged on CEDAR and are highlighted on a vulnerable student list to receive welfare checks (remotely during college closure). Welfare checks will be predominately completed by a DSL, member of the pastoral staff, additional learning support staff or a member of the foundation learning team, however, based on acting on the best interests of the student these may be completed by any relevant member of staff.

In order to maintain acting in the best interests of the individual:

- The college's DSL will remain in contact with Lancashire's Virtual School and the social workers of our looked-after children.
- The Additional Learning Support Manager and the Foundation Learning Manager will liaise closely with the DSL's to assess the needs for students with EHC plans.
- DSL's will continue to support social workers working with students receiving support from social care services.

The college recognises that students who do not meet these definitions may still have situations that require additional pastoral support. In these cases, students have been flagged using CEDAR and are incorporated on the vulnerable student list for pastoral staff welfare checks. This will be a flexible approach based on the identified needs of the student.

What staff and volunteers should do if they have concerns about a staff member or volunteer who may pose a safeguarding risk to children

In these circumstances staff should continue to report this concern to the principal. Further guidance on this can be found in the college's full safeguarding policy ([Link](#)) section 5.1

Peer on peer abuse

Where staff are aware of allegations of peer on peer abuse this should be reported to the college's DSL, or a member of SLT. The principals and guidance noted in the college's safeguarding policy section 6.g ([Link](#)) will remain in consideration.

Mental health

Where a mental health issue is suspected, or disclosed the following actions should be taken:

- If there is an immediate threat of harm for a student emergency services (999) should be contacted and then direct, and immediate, contact with a DSL or the Principal
- Non-urgent concerns should be reported to the DSL's, and CEDAR can be used in this instance
- During college closure the counselling team and health & wellbeing co-coordinator are offering a remote service and referrals can continue to be made in the usual manner.

Students, and parents, should also be signposted to contact their GP and the following online services:

- NHS – Every mind matters – General wellbeing advice & COVID-19 specific ([Link](#))
- YoungMinds – A charity offering advice for young people, professionals and parents ([Link](#))
- NSPCC ([Link](#))

Online Safety

All members of staff should continue to look out for signs that a young person may be at risk. Any such concerns, or direct disclosures, should be directly and immediately referred to the college DSLs. Subsequent actions will take account of the college's safeguarding policy ([Link](#)) as outlined in section 6.c including, where appropriate, referrals made to children's social care and/or the police.

The DfE has encouraged colleges to share the following support for young people, parents and carers

- [Childline](#) - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse
- [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 careers 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

Sources of guidance:

DfE Supporting vulnerable children and young people during the Corona (COVID-19) Outbreak – [Link](#)

DfE Corona Virus (COVID-19) - Safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers – [Link](#)

DfE Keeping children safe in education – Statutory guidance for schools and college – [Link](#)