

Safeguarding Addendum to the Child Protection Policy

- Policy owner: D.R.Bott, Deputy Head, Pastoral & DSL
- Date ratified by governors: **7.05.2020**
- Date shared with staff: 9.04.2020

Context and rationale for this interim guidance: The way schools and colleges are currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual. Therefore the Government issued interim guidance on March 27, which is designed to supplement KCSIE which remains the statutory guidance.

Much of this new guidance refers to Schools having combined their resources and staff. This is not the case with Mount Kelly as we will not have staff we are 'unaware' of and all our support of key workers will continue to be carried out by existing staff. Nonetheless, we need to be aware of the key principles of this interim guidance and just as we do for KCSIE we need to read it and understand it.

In short, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same and need to be restated:

- 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 is always 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

Mount Kelly will continue, as far as is reasonably possible, to take a whole institution approach to safeguarding. This will allow us to ensure that any new policies and processes in response to COVID-19 are not weakening our approach to safeguarding or undermining our child protection policy.

This is not 'business as usual' – It is critical, more than ever, that the following principles are adhered to:

- Adopt a child centred approach and act in the best interest of our pupils at all time.
- Report / Discuss **immediately** any safeguarding concerns with the DSL or DDSL if the DSL is unavailable.
- It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the workforce or gain access to children.
- Children should continue to be 'safeguarded' out of school especially when they're online with particular reference to increased possibility for peer on peer abuse.
- Any concerns about staff behaviour towards pupils in the course of remote learning or any other pupil engagement, should be reported immediately to either the Head

of Prep / Head Master dependent on which section the staff member usually operates.

- Mount Kelly 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. We 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

Reporting concerns

- The main mechanism for reporting concerns remains MyConcern. If you have any questions about access, or struggle to gain access, please telephone the DSL immediately.
- The School's safeguarding team (DSL, Safeguarding Governor etc) and their contact details can be found in the main body of the Schools Safeguarding Policy.
- Any enforced changes to the DSL and DDSL during these exceptional circumstances will be shared with all staff and volunteers of the school

DSL cover and training

- Whilst we remain in 'lock down' The DSL remains contactable at all times by telephone: 07540018357, via email, TEAMs or MyConcern. Do not hesitate to make contact if you have ANY safeguarding queries or concerns.
- Matty Thavenot, DDSL is also available and resident on-site should, for any reason the DSL cannot be contacted. **Tel:** 07591387608

Safer Recruitment

- 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, Mount Kelly will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE).

New Staff

- Staff new to the School in the Summer Term will undertake a programme of interim 'remote' staff induction organised by the DSL and other co-opted staff. Induction will include as a minimum, the Online Safeguarding Training, CP Policy, KCSIE, information about the Devon Family and Children Partnership / MASH and Mount Kelly reporting and DSL arrangements.

Volunteers

- All request for enlisting the support of volunteers must be made specifically to the DSL and HR. These will be considered on a case by case basis and all normal procedures will apply.

Vulnerable Pupils

Maintained Schools will be asked to keep their gates open to 'vulnerable pupils' and Social workers will be operating as 'normally' as they can. There are strict criteria for such pupils.

Other than those on an EHCP, Mount Kelly has no pupils that meet this strict criteria, therefore the only children we will have in when term resumes is those of key workers (See below)

Pupils with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the SENDCO, 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 could include, if necessary and available, 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.

However,

- There are children with known 'issues' that most likely have already been flagged via *MyConcern*.
- Staff and Tutors of these children are to be especially vigilant in their dealings with this group and should continue to use *MyConcern* to log any conversations or correspondence relating to these pupils.
- Housemasters / Housemistresses should liaise with Tutors over keeping 'in touch' with our more vulnerable pupils. A weekly email to 'touch base' is sufficient in the first instance.
- If there is a need to 'escalate' please discuss with the DSL immediately.
- If you become aware of a pupil or a member of their family / friends being impacted by Covid 19 log on MyConcern and inform the Head Master.

Pupil Attendance

Pupils of Key Workers

- 'Normal' attendance procedures have been replaced with a daily DFE electronic register. The Assistant Head Data & Digital Learning is responsible for maintaining and submitting this register on a daily basis. (All staff on-site will also be included on this daily register)

All other Pupils

- There will be no requirement for the School to formally register pupils.

- However, as Mount Kelly will be operating a formal remote learning programme, teaching staff are asked to keep their own record of lesson attendance. Teaching staff should report any frequent 'lesson absence' to the pupils Tutor.
- Tutors should keep an oversight of their Tutees attendance and escalate If 'non-attendance' is not reasonably accounted for.

Mental Health

Current circumstance is likely to have an impact on everyone's ongoing mental health.

- During this time of remote learning – please keep expectations realistic.
- Remember that pupils with existing mental health conditions, including anxiety, could find these current circumstances more challenging than ever.
- Refer any staff / parents / pupils to previously signposted resources – Especially useful and 'popular' services are:
 - Childline 0800 1111 / www.childline.org.uk
 - www.younminds.org.uk
 - www.kooth.com
 - The Samaritans 116 123
 - www.happymaps.co.uk

Whilst there is plenty of information about Covid 19, some of our pupils may have unanswered questions. The following are recommended for young people:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51204456>

Should a pupil, parent or member of staff require further guidance or advice on mental health, please contact the DSL.

Online 'at home'

Technical

- Mount Kelly is maintaining a support network for Staff and Pupils. If there are any technical issues or concerns about potential fraudulent use, report using the usual channels immediately.
- Staff especially should be wary of other online 'products' that they might wish to employ in their remote teaching. E.g 'WhatsApp' is NOT an acceptable resource, not least of all because it is not GDPR compliant.
- Staff and Pupils should ensure they adhere to the remote learning guidance as distributed by the Assistant Head, Data & Digital Learning. Staff especially must ensure all their dealing online are transparent. DO NOT for example accept online invites to pupil organised events via Apps etc. e.g Houseparty.

Keeping 'safe' online

- With the extended time our pupils will be at home, it is highly likely that they will be spending more time than ever 'online'. The attendant risks therefore are increased.
- It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk or suffering abuse. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection Policy
- The DSL will continue to advise staff / parents / pupils of emerging online safety issues / concerns and guidance via email and the School weekly Newsletter.
- Staff should re-familiarise themselves with the School online safety policy and procedures.

Further Information

- If any member of staff, pupil or parents requires further information relating to this addendum, they should email the Deputy Head, Pastoral and Foundation DSL: Mr Drew Bott – bottd@mountkelly.com

Review

- This addendum will be reviewed at regular intervals particularly when new advice is released by the LA or DfE

D.R.Bott

7 May 2020