

Covid-19 Addendum to Our Lady of the Rosary's School / Academy Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy



Emergency contact details:

Named personnel with designated responsibility for Safeguarding:			
Name	Email	Telephone	Mobile
Mrs M.Graham	m.graham300@durhamlearning.net mgraham@stmarysjarrow.co.uk	01915862264	07950551460
Mrs C.Sutherland	c.sutherland100@durhamlearning.net		07896832310
Mrs H.Ord	h.ord200@durhamlearning.net		07795292705

Addendum to Child Protection Policy due to the circumstances of COVID-19

Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies

The Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies are Mrs Graham, Mrs Sutherland, Mrs White and Mrs Ord and they will continue to be available at all times. However due to these unprecedented circumstances they may not physically be on our school site every day. In a case where the DSL and DDSL are not available on site, Mrs Ord can be contacted by telephone (number is on flow chart and on front page) or all of the safeguarding team can be contacted by email.

Should our school site be entirely closed then we will update our website and Child Protection Policy with our arrangements.

Arrangements for Contact with Vulnerable Children

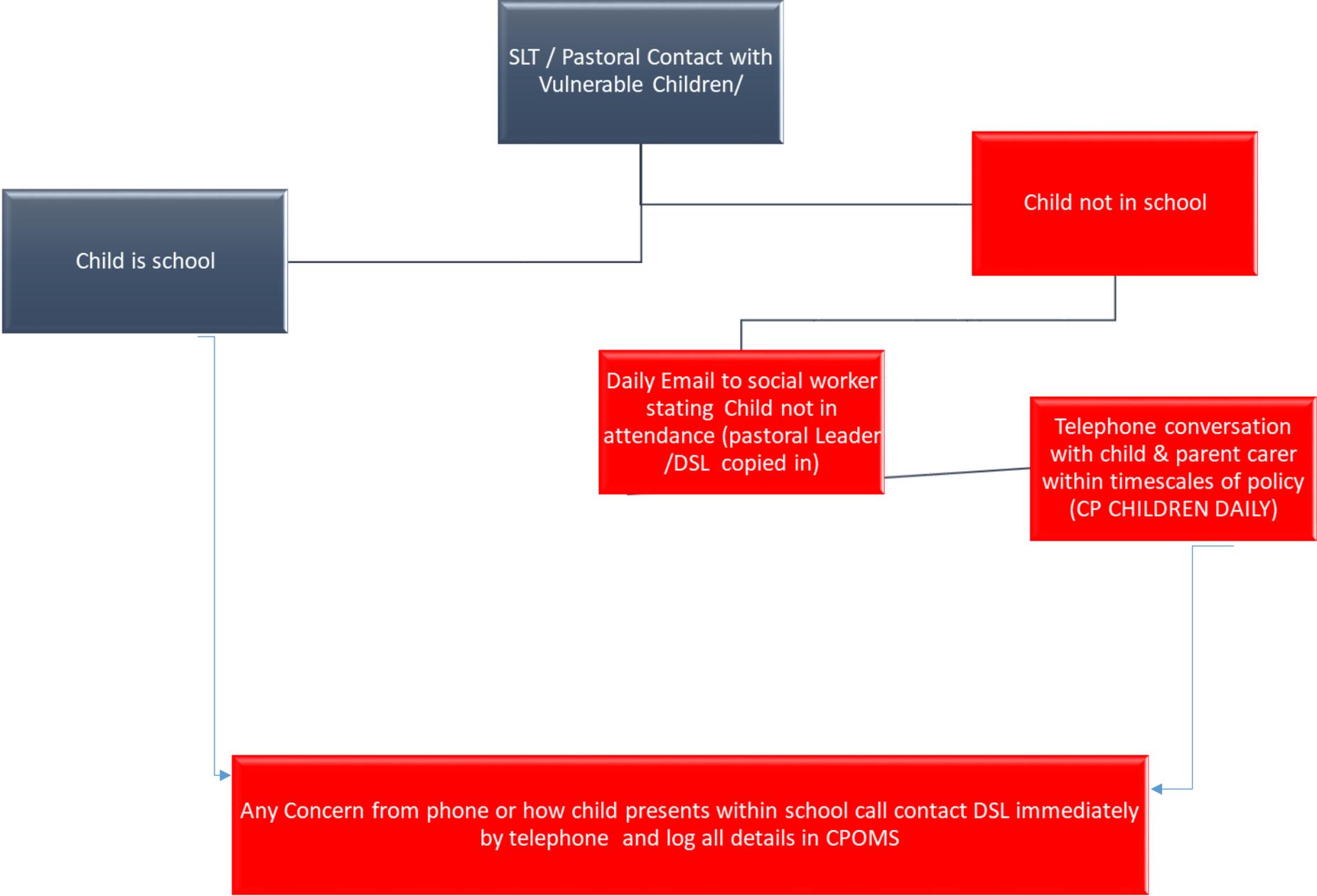
Designated Safeguarding Lead will continue to contact vulnerable children and their families in the following timescales if the school is closed or these children are not on site: children the subject of a **Child Protection Plan (daily)**, children who have a **Child in Need Plan (twice weekly)**, **Looked After Children (twice weekly dependent on the child's individual placement needs)** or children with a TAF **(weekly)**. If there are any issues raised during this time regarding their care, safety or ability to be contacted then the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy will follow their local safeguarding procedures and contact their local services immediately (as per our Child Protection Policy).

Availability and contact arrangements for families and professionals who wish to make contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies

During these unprecedented circumstances the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies will be available to be contacted by children, families and other services and agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all our vulnerable children. They can be contacted via the school telephone number, mobile or by email. Whether they are on or off site they will gain contact with any family or professional as soon as possible.

Contact with the Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies should be within the hours of the school day 8.30am-17.00pm ONLY. Designated Safeguarding Leads/Deputies cannot be responsible for not receiving calls and messages outside of these times. In the event that children or

families need support immediately please contact children's services immediately (as per the information within the Child Protection Policy) or contact the Police.



Introduction

In light of the ongoing challenges faced by schools in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the new arrangements and ways of working schools are developing to meet the challenges of supporting

- pupils identified as vulnerable
- children of key workers
- the wider pupil population
- providing and delivering community support
- responding to identified local needs

The DFE have issued additional guidance for schools and academies relating to their existing Safeguarding /Child Protection Policy documents. We have produced this document to summarise the key issues described in the DFE guidance and to act as the additional element / addendum to your existing Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy that the DFE Guidance document suggests.

It is not exhaustive, and we would encourage schools to consider this document and amend it to reflect your specific context and situation, and to ensure it addresses the way in which your school is delivering safeguarding support, and responding to community issues.

Schools are asked to read the new guidance and act in accordance with the advice provided.

The Guidance Document: Key Messages

KCSIE 2020 must still be adhered to. Schools / academies must continue to

- provide a safe environment
- keep children safe
- ensure staff and volunteers have been appropriately checked and risk assessments carried out as required

Key safeguarding principles remain unchanged

- 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

Annex 1 to Existing Policy in Response to COVID 19

Context

Our existing school /academy policy continues to be compliant and fit for purpose. It recognises and responds to the key guidance documents

- ✓ Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020
- ✓ Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- ✓ Existing Local Authority / Safeguarding Partnership Advice and Guidance
- ✓ Additional Guidance in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic was published by the DFE on March 27th, and this annex to our existing policy reflects the advice contained within this document.

This addendum of the OLOTR Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy contains details of our individual safeguarding arrangements in the following areas:

Advice from our Local Safeguarding Partners

Our Lady of the Rosary will continue to respond and act upon the guidance and advice provided by our 3 Local Safeguarding Partners during the period that new arrangements are in place. We will review any updated advice, share with appropriate staff and ensure school / academy practice reflects new guidance.

Advice from the Local Authority

Where the Local Authority issues further advice and guidance regarding the following areas of our activity, we will review our practice, share with appropriate staff and ensure school / academy practice reflects this new advice.

Areas to consider:

- Pupils with EHC plans
- Advice from the L.A.D.O / Children's Social Care
- Reporting concerns where issues are identified
- Changes in referral thresholds
- Response to those identified as Children in Need

Responding to concerns regarding a pupil.

All staff at OLOTR are expected to follow all existing procedures for responding to concerns. This includes:

- ✓ any newly shared guidance developed as a consequence of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ making a report via CPOMS, which can be done remotely. In the unlikely event that a member of staff cannot access their CPOMS from home staff should not solely rely on CPOMS but should ensure direct contact is made with Mrs Ord by telephone

Where staff have a concern it is expected that this information will be shared with a named DSL to ensure appropriate advice is given and actions taken to safeguard the pupil. All staff and volunteers must act immediately on any safeguarding concerns which may be identified. **See flow diagram.**

DSL (and deputy) arrangements

All staff have been advised of the arrangements we have in place, and contact details for the identified DSL / Deputy DSL during the period of this pandemic.

See flow diagram.

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, CPOMS 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 OLOTR staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy). On each day staff on site will be made aware of who that person is and how to speak to them. Mrs Ord will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely. If Mrs Ord is not available a DSL will pick this up.

Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

OLOTR recognise the vulnerability of any of our pupils identified as L.A.C or previously L.A.C. Key staff will continue to support and liaise with Children's Social Care staff, and the Virtual Head of School for LAC to ensure that the educational and support needs of all LAC pupils continue to be met during this period.

Peer on Peer abuse

We recognise that during the period where new working arrangements are in place, some pupils may be potentially vulnerable to different forms of abuse, including Peer on Peer abuse. OLOTR will continue to respond to any concerns which may arise. Staff must follow existing reporting arrangements, discuss concerns with a DSL and continue to follow the guidance set out within our existing policy / KCSIE Part 5

Responding to concerns regarding staff conduct / behaviour

All staff are aware of their responsibility to report any concerns regarding the conduct or behaviour of colleagues. Our Whistleblowing Policy clearly sets out the reporting process, and this reflects the key messages set out in Part 4 of KCSIE 2019. Should staff have any concerns they must follow existing school /academy procedures.

Vulnerable Pupils

Vulnerable children include:

- ✓ those who have a social worker
- ✓ those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

- ✓ those who have a social worker including children who have a Child Protection Plan
- ✓ 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.

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 itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability. Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) 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.

OLOTR 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: **Hollie Ord**

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 OLOTR will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent. Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, OLOTR or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England. OLOTR will encourage our vulnerable children and young people to attend a school, including remotely if needed.

Supporting all Pupils

During this period, the vast majority of our pupils are not expected to attend school. These pupils do not currently meet the agreed definition of a '**vulnerable pupil**'.

OLOTR recognise our ongoing responsibility to provide advice, support and guidance to all our pupils and our staff are in regular contact with all pupils on our roll. Safeguarding these pupils remains **everyone's responsibility**.

We continue to seek to communicate with, and provide advice and information to all pupils.

Our staff are aware of their responsibility to seek advice regarding any issue which causes concern and are expected to continue to adhere to existing school reporting and recording procedures for any potential safeguarding issue.

Supporting children not in school

OLOTR 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 must be recorded on CPOMS, as should a record of contact have made.
- ✓ The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact,
- ✓ Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

OLOTR 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.
- ✓ The school will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.
- ✓ OLOTR 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 OLOTR need to be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home.
- ✓ OLOTR 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 and recorded on CPOMS.

Online safety

During the period where new working arrangements are in place OLOTR recognises that our pupils may be using a range of technologies and using on line materials, as well as potentially accessing a range of different sites as part of their home learning programme.

We will share appropriate and recognised on-line learning materials with our pupils and we will ensure we continue to reinforce our expectations regarding safe on-line behaviour for all pupils during this period.

Below are some things to consider when delivering virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

LIVE STREAMING IS NOT PERMITTED

- ✓ No 1:1s, groups only
- ✓ Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- ✓ Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and the background should be blurred.
- ✓ Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- ✓ Staff must only use platforms provided by OLOTR to communicate with pupils

Where staff have a concern, then they must follow existing school reporting procedures and our on-line safety policy.

Staff training and Induction

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. In order to support staff and keep children safe:

- ✓ All existing school staff should have read part 1 and annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020).
- ✓ 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 will continue to be provided with a **safeguarding induction**.

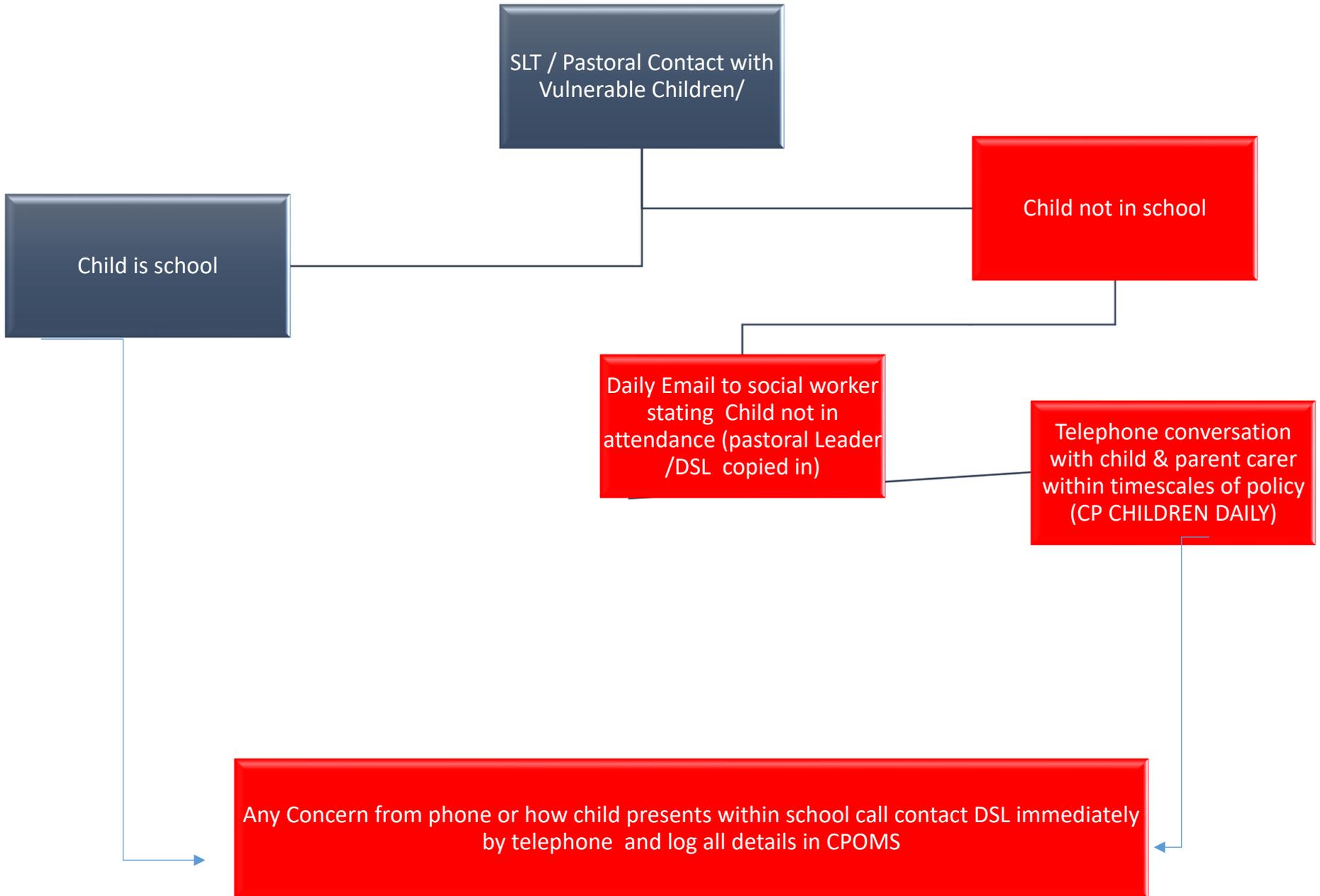
If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our school, we will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding children during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:

- ✓ 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 the 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.

Safer Recruitment and procedure for movement of staff and volunteers

- ✓ OLOTR recognise that this situation requires us all to work in different ways and respond to new and emerging circumstances.
- ✓ We remain committed to the principles of Safer Recruitment practice and guidance as described in KCSIE 2019 Part 3.
- ✓ Should volunteers be permitted to support the school, we will continue to undertake all appropriate vetting and checking procedures and ensure we are compliant with the principles of regulated activity.
- ✓ We will ensure that our Single Central Record is maintained and all required elements are compliant.

It is important that all staff and volunteers are aware of the new policy and are kept up to date as it is revised. The revised policy should continue to be made available publicly.



If you are concerned about a child:

Staff concerns about a child

Emergency or exceptional circumstances (such as case not being progressed)

Staff discusses with Designated Safeguarding (DSL) Lead or Deputy DSL

DSL not on site

Contact DSL via mobile:

07950551460 (MG)

07896832310 (CS)

07837069749 (SW)

07795292705 (HO)

Referral not required

Referral made if concerns escalate

DSL to make a referral

School action required

Early Help

Monitor

Referral to Children's Social Care or Police if appropriate

If not available

St Mary's 0191

4898336

EMERGENCY: If a child is in immediate danger call the POLICE on **999**

EMERGENCY: To make an URGENT referral call Children's Social Care on **0191 03000 267 979**

To make a NON URGENT referral, contact Children's Social Care using the online referral form <https://www.durham-scp.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child/>

Unsure how to respond or for ADVICE and guidance call a Clennell Education Solutions Safeguarding Consultant on **0191 2146724**

Contact with families during COVID-19

During the COVID-19 outbreak it is imperative that we continue to record contact made with children and their families. We should be aware that our families are going to be under increasing stress which may increase the risk of harm.

Here are some top tips to keep us all safe:

Top Tips when recording

- ✓ Make sure you record the **time** and **date** of contact made not the date you record the contact
- ✓ The record should include the **name of the person** who made contact should we need to discuss this with them at a later date
- ✓ Details should be **factual, accurate** and do not include opinion
- ✓ Remember to include **your actions**, what you said or advised
- ✓ Information is **clear** and understandable to others
- ✓ Include full names not in the record to avoid any confusion
- ✓ For vulnerable pupils **ask to speak to the child**. Tell the parent you are carrying out 'pupil motivational calls' and record you have spoken to them.
- ✓ If a parent indicates they are sick and unable to come to the phone / get out of bed then we need to consider whether the children are safe? Who is looking after them? Is there another adult available? What is their age / maturity? **Inform the DSL immediately.**

Hand-written records

- ✓ Written records are legible (readable and makes sense)
- ✓ Entries are written in black permanent ink
- ✓ Errors are scored through with a single line, are dated and signed, and remain legible

If working from home

- ✓ If working on a computer ensure the screen is positioned not to be in view of others within the home (CPOMS)
- ✓ If using an online teaching package, consider the location of your computer and any recorded lessons do not compromise your position
- ✓ Staff should only use online systems agreed by the school.
- ✓ There are a number of serious concerns about using Whatsapp for school communications. First, Whatsapp says it **should not be used** for business; it is against their terms and conditions. Second, it is **not compliant** with **GDPR**. Third, there is no

way that a school can access the content should it need to; there is no audit trail whatsoever.

Phone calls to parents / pupils

- ✓ Record the call on CPOMS or tracker (schools current recording system)
- ✓ If calling from home protect your number by dialing 141 first
- ✓ If leaving a message ensure there is no personal information in the voicemail
- ✓ If any concerns arise during the conversation ensure you follow your safeguarding procedures

Emails to parents / pupils

- ✓ Never use personal emails to contact parents or pupils
- ✓ Remember you are representing the school and the emails may be used in legal cases.
- ✓ Do not mention personal details on emails
- ✓ Include a signature strip on your emails, including school, address, contact details and job title so they can be traced at a later stage
- ✓ Check who you are sending it to before you click send
- ✓ If you send an email by error containing student information. Inform your line manager as soon as possible
- ✓ If you receive an inappropriate email inform your line manager of the time, date, content and sender details

Considerations for DSLs

- ✓ Risk levels of each child and whether COVID-19 will increase risk to that child
- ✓ How often staff should make contact with home (For example: Red – daily, Amber – twice a week, Green – weekly)

How to make contact:

- ✓ Text systems are good for short whole school messages
- ✓ Websites are good for longer whole school messages
- ✓ Home visits are good to check the welfare, appearance, whether a family is coping. Reasons to visit: Food parcel, work pack delivery (Ensure lone working procedures are followed and the outreach worker adheres to a 2 metre distance, through window)

Which member of staff should make contact with home?

- ✓ **Additional needs:** Would the SENCO / teaching assistant be best placed to make contact as they can advise the parent on coping strategies and would recognise any difficulties they may be facing
- ✓ **Staff will be allocated pupils to contact.**
- ✓ Where possible the **same member of staff** has the regular contact with the family
- ✓ As staff may be absent due to illness has a main key contact been identified or a **cover contact person** appointed?
- ✓ If there are **siblings** make a call to the whole family and record on the sibling's record also. (Linked students on CPOMS / click monitor)
- ✓ Share contact details for further support

If you have a concern...

<p>If a child is in immediate danger call the <u>POLICE</u></p>	<p>Police 999</p>
<p>To make an <u>URGENT</u> referral i.e. child is likely to suffer or is suffering significant harm call Children's Social Care</p>	<p>Children's Social Care (CSC)</p>
<p>To make an <u>NON URGENT</u> referral, contact Children's Social Care using the online referral form</p>	<p>Children's Social Care</p>
<p>To raise a concern and ask advice about <u>EXTREMISM</u> (also Children's Social Care)</p>	<p>PREVENT DUTY</p>
<p>Unsure how to respond or for <u>ADVICE</u> and guidance call a CES Safeguarding Consultant</p>	<p>Clennell Education Solutions (CES) Call: 0191 214 6724</p>
<p>For <u>ADVICE</u> and guidance on cases who do not meet the threshold for CSC</p>	<p>EARLY HELP</p>
<p>For raising concerns and ask for guidance in relation to <u>CODE OF CONDUCT</u> of someone who works with children</p>	<p>Local Authority Designated Officer</p>
<p>Support for professionals who are <u>WORRIED</u> about how child protection procedures are being handled in their workplace.</p>	<p>NSPCC Whistleblowing helpline Call: 0800 028 0285</p>
<p>For further information on safeguarding procedures in your <u>Local Authority</u></p>	<p>LOCAL SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS</p>