Safeguarding Policy September 2020

Addendum 1 - for the Covid -19 pandemic in England.   Dated: 30th March 2020

Rationale: During the enforced lockdown period arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, the staff of St Mary's will take into account the necessary interim procedures, as detailed in this addendum to the School's current Safeguarding Policy.

A1. The principles of Keeping Children Safe in Education still apply, i.e.

- The best interests of the children must always continue to come first;
- If anyone in school or working from home has a safeguarding concern about a child, they should continue to act and act immediately;
- The DSL team – the Senior Leadership Assessment Team (SLAT) – is available to respond to any concerns raised by staff;
- Unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the School or join its team of professionals and/or gain access to children;
- Children should continue, as far as possible, to be protected when they are online.

A2. What staff should do if they have concerns about a child:

- If access is available, the My Concern system for reporting concerns should be used.
- A DSL will always have a physical presence on site during the lockdown period and concerns raised on site will be dealt with by that DSL in the first instance.
- When My Concern is not available, the concerned staff member should contact the SLAT via email on the day of the concern.
- Concerns about children who have not engaged with home learning and have not attended school – as a Key Worker child – must be reported.
- Any 'welfare phone conversations' should be logged onto My Concern by the SLAT member making the call to a family.
- Should any child or any carer raise a concern to staff member, or if there is anything that the staff member considers a safeguarding concern, this must be recorded/ passed to the SLAT as above.

A3. E-Safety whilst working at home

- Parents/carers will be made aware/reminded of useful ways to keep their child safe whilst online, such as: Internet Matters; Net Aware; Parent Info; Thinkuknow; UK Safer Internet Safety Centre.
- Staff shall record and report any misuse of the internet that would compromise the safety of a child.

A4. Response to the Covid-19 pandemic in school:

- The school buildings and rooms where children are being cared for shall be clean and cleaned regularly to minimise risks of infection to the children and staff.
- 'Social distancing' shall be practised.
- The children shall have frequent opportunities throughout the day to wash their hands, exercise and, when appropriate, share their feelings about the situation they find themselves in: being in school because one or both parents are frontline critical workers and consequently at higher risk.
- Should a child or staff member show signs of infection from Covid-19, the DSL staff member must be informed immediately and action taken immediately to isolate the individual and contact the relevant parent. Staff members must follow current Government guidance on self-isolation and the DSL call upon reserve staff to take over their duties and maintain adequate adult: pupil ratios.