



## Addendum to 'Safeguarding Policy' - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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Next Review: March 2021 (HNM)

Authorised and approved on behalf of the Board of Governors by:

*Andrew Grime*

**Mr A Grime - Chair of Governors**

This is designed to provide information about safeguarding our pupils in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. This will be regularly reviewed and updated in line with guidance as issued to educational settings from the Government, Local Authority and the Police.

Our commitment to the safeguarding of our pupils will continue to be a priority and as such our safeguarding principles, as detailed in the main 'Safeguarding Policy' will remain the same.

These can be summarised:

- The best interests of children will continue to be our priority.
- If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child they should take action and act immediately.
- Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (Nerys Moses) and Deputy Safeguarding Leads (Louise Poyser - Senior School & Corinna Travis I&J) will continue to support College and pupils with any safeguarding queries and contact details are available in the main policy.
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online.

### **Child Protection**

College is making provision for pupils with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans in accordance with local authority guidelines.

Where College is providing care for the children of 'Key Workers', a member of the Leadership Team is on site together with a trained first aider and additional staff - numbers are adjusted daily depending upon the number and ages of the children on site. Where the DSL or DDSL is not on site, they are immediately available on telephone or video call if required.

Where appropriate, College continues to work with outside agencies to provide support and protection for vulnerable children.

### **Attendance**

Arrangements have been made with parents who are 'key workers' to ensure that College is aware of who to expect in College on a day to day basis. Arrangements have also been made with these families to assist with travel arrangements as normal bus services are not in

operation. The 'daily online attendance form' is completed in accordance with requirements of Department of Education.

### **Safer Recruitment/Volunteers and Movement of Staff**

Abbey Gate College follows a rigorous and thorough checking procedure when recruiting staff and this is detailed in our 'Safeguarding Policy' and 'Safer Recruitment Policy'. These will remain in force.

### **Mental Health**

Abbey Gate College takes great pride in educating and supporting pupils in understanding and looking after both physical and mental health. This current climate will inevitably put different pressures on individuals and as a College we are committed to:

- Keeping in touch with everyone. Both academic work, social and emotional wellbeing resources are on the College's VLE.
- There is a programme in place for pupils to be contacted individually by telephone or email - 'welfare checks'.
- If a 'welfare check' alerts to a concern, this is being raised with Heads of Year and Head of Pastoral to ensure that appropriate action is taken.
- A Year group Forum has been set up to enable pupils to keep in contact with each other and staff.

### **Online Safety**

All work set by College is through the College's Firefly VLE which is filtered and monitored.

Online teaching operates within the same principles that are set out in the College's Staff Behaviour Policy/Code of Conduct. Where it might be appropriate for College to consider developing the use of further online learning tools and systems, this will be in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements and clear guidelines will be issued to staff and pupils. Procedures will be included to ensure that there is a clear reporting route back to College for any concerns as well as Childline/UK Safer Internet Centre/CEOP.

At the point of school closure being announced by Government, parents were issued with detailed information about how they could support their children at home: 'School Closure - advice to parents handbook'.

Further support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online:

[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 carers 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.

[Parent Zone](#) - for resources to keep children safe online.