



We love, we learn, we live

St Mary's RC First School
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St Joseph's RC Middle School
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26th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Safeguarding during the school closure

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), for St. Mary's R.C First School and St. Joseph's R.C Middle School, to outline how we will continue supporting families and children throughout the period of school closure due to the COVID 19 outbreak. Even though the school has closed, and is only open for those of key workers and vulnerable children, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or need advice on protecting or safeguarding a young person.

Please follow the guidance below:

- Firstly, if you need to report an urgent concern, speak to Northumberland's One Call service, which is their 'front door' to safeguarding services, on **01670 536400** or call the police (**111** for non-urgent cases or **999** for urgent cases or emergencies).
- During the closure, safeguarding concerns can be reported to me via parentcontact@hexhamstjosephs.uk. This will be checked on a daily basis by a member of the safeguarding team. Also, students, parents and carers can continue to use the school phone number during usual working hours (**01434 605124**) or leave a message to report any concerns and we will do what we can to support and help.
- Senior Leaders and our Inclusion Support Manager will continue to check emails and respond to concerns, as well as alert me as the Designated Safeguarding Lead to any issues.
- In the case of parent/carers currently involved in an early help assessment (EHA) process or involved with children's services, although we may not be able to meet in person I am exploring the possibility of using email and/or phone contact to continue to liaise with other professionals to support you as best as I am able. The safeguarding team will call individual parent/carers directly to make these arrangements.
- Finally, it is our aim to maintain at least weekly contact with families of those 'vulnerable' children. If this affects you, the safeguarding team will be in contact within the next seven days.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Gavin. R. Simpson (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

